

Heads Up!

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — A 6-ton NASA satellite on a collision course with Earth clung to space Friday, apparently flipping position in its ever-lower orbit and stalling its death plunge. The old research spacecraft was targeted



The STS-48 Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite (UARS) during deployment in September 1991. NASA's old research satellite is expected to come crashing down through the atmosphere over the weekend.

(AP Photo/NASA)

to crash through the atmosphere sometime Friday night or early Saturday, putting Canada, Africa and Australia in the potential crosshairs, although most of the satellite should burn up during re-entry. The United States wasn't entirely out of the woods; the possible strike zone skirted Washington state.

"It just doesn't want to come down," said Jonathan McDowell of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

McDowell said the satellite's delayed demise demonstrates how unreliable predictions can be. That said, "the best guess is that it will still splash in the ocean, just because there's more ocean out there." Until Friday, increased solar activity was causing the atmosphere to expand and the 35-foot, bus-size satellite to free fall more quickly.

Continued next page

Recognize



Timetable needed to restart Israeli and Palestinian talks

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas holds a letter requesting recognition of Palestine as a state as he addresses the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Friday, Sept. 23, 2011 at UN Headquarters.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)
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Timetable needed to restart Israeli and Palestinian talks

Continued from front

NEIL MacFARQUHAR

STEVEN LEE MYERS

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UNITED NATIONS – Shortly after President Mahmoud

to a new round of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian leadership after many months of stalemate.

Catherine Ashton, the Euro-



Hundreds of Palestinians listen as they watch President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority address the United Nations General Assembly from a video screen set up in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Sept. 23, 2011. Abbas formally requested full U.N. membership on Friday as a path toward statehood, rejecting arguments by the U.S. and Israel that it was not a substitute for direct negotiations for peace in the Middle East.

(Rina Castelnovo/The New York Times)

Abbas of the Palestinian Authority formally requested the Security Council to grant full U.N. membership Friday, international powers reached an agreement on terms to restart talks between Israel and the Palestinians, diplomats and Obama administration officials said.

Details of the understanding among the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia, known as the Quartet, were expected to be announced later Friday. But officials said they hoped the statement would lead

pean foreign policy chief, said the proposal did not try to solve the preconditions that both presidents have stated before and repeated Friday in their statements at the United Nations. The Palestinians have demanded a freeze on settlement expansion, for example, while Israel wants to be recognized as a Jewish state.

"What we have tried to do is to set the framework in which they can have those discussions and reach agreement," Ashton told a news conference. She said the most important aspect

of the statement was the time frame: beginning talks within four weeks, significant progress on borders and security within three months and a full agreement by the end of 2012.

Yet the Quartet's statement was a watered down document, avoiding any of the difficult – and highly contentious – issues that have been the focus of negotiations for months and that continue to divide the Israelis and Palestinians. It did reaffirm "strong support for the vision of Israeli-Palestinian peace" outlined by President Barack Obama in May. That included two states separated by the borders that existed in 1967 with "land swaps" to account for Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

It called on the Israelis and Palestinians to meet and agree on an agenda and schedule for resuming direct negotiations within a month and to come forward with "comprehensive proposals" on territory and security within three months, before the end of this year. The two sides should make "substantial progress" within six months and complete a final agreement before the end of 2012.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton emerged from the unexpected meeting of the Quartet at the United Nations and praised the "concrete and detailed proposal." □

Falling satellite slows, Earth strike delayed



This screen grab image provided by NASA shows UARS attached to the robotic arm of the space shuttle Discovery during mission STS-48 in 1991, when UARS was deployed. NASA scientists are doing their best to tell us where a plummeting 6-ton satellite will fall over the weekend.

(AP Photo/NASA)

Continued from front

But late Friday morning, NASA said the sun was no longer the major factor in the rate of descent and that the satellite's position, shape or both had changed by the time it slipped down to a 100-mile orbit.

"In the last 24 hours, something has happened to the spacecraft," said NASA orbital debris scientist Mark Matney.

On Friday night, NASA said it expected the satellite to come crashing down between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. EDT. It will be passing over the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans at that time, as well as Canada, Africa and Australia.

"The risk to public safety is very remote," NASA said in a statement.

The Aerospace Corp.,

which tracks space debris, estimated the strike would happen sometime between about 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. EDT, which would make a huge difference in where the debris falls. Those late-night, early morning passes showed the satellite flying over parts of the United States.

But NASA stressed its predictions had almost all of the U.S. in the clear — with Washington state the lone holdout.

Any surviving wreckage is expected to be limited to a 500-mile (805-kilometer) swath.

The Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite, or UARS, will be the biggest NASA spacecraft to crash back to Earth, uncontrolled, since the post-Apollo 75-ton Skylab space station and the more than 10-ton Pegasus 2 satellite, both in 1979. □

Budget impasse hits Congress as deadline nears

ANDREW TAYLOR
CHARLES BABINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just a week away from a possible government shutdown, lawmakers boxed themselves into a new budget impasse Friday. With Congress' approval ratings already at an all-time low, a tit-for-tat over disaster aid left Republicans and Democrats — and the House and Senate — in a faceoff that's all too familiar to millions of Americans. Deep partisan disputes pushed the government to the edge of a partial shutdown in April, and to the brink of a debt ceiling crisis in late July. On Friday, the Democratic-controlled Senate blocked a Republican House bill that would provide stop-gap federal spending, plus aid for people battered by hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters.



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., left, joined by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of Calif., center, and Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin of Ill., takes part in a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Sept. 23, 2011, to discuss their conflict with Republican lawmakers over whether funding for victims of natural disasters should be paid for by cuts to other government programs.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

The legislation also calls for \$1.6 billion in spending cuts to help defray the disaster costs. Democrats say it's unprecedented and unfair to require spending cuts to accompany badly needed emergency aid. They are especially unhappy that the Republican measure would tap clean-energy programs credited with creating jobs. Republicans say that with a \$14 trillion-plus national debt, business-as-usual spending is no longer acceptable. With elections coming, congressional Republicans suggest voters will find it outrageous that Democrats wouldn't accept a mere \$1.6 billion in spending cuts. Democrats are betting voters will find it petty and manipulative to let tornado and hurricane victims wonder if federal aid will be denied because lawmakers want to cut aid to Detroit's automakers. □

Obama's LA campaign office smashed up



President Obama's Westside campaign office is seen with boarded windows and door Friday, Sept. 23, 2011, in the Playa Vista area of Los Angeles. Los Angeles police are investigating what appears to be a politically motivated attack on the newly opened campaign office for President Barack Obama.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police said Friday they are investigating what appears to be a politically motivated attack on a campaign office for President Barack Obama in Los Angeles, only days before he is scheduled to arrive in Southern California. Several campaign staffers were in a room at the back of the office Thursday night

when they heard the sound of smashing glass at the front and side of the building, said police Cmdr. Andrew Smith. They found three front-door windows and a side glass door had been smashed. No rocks or projectiles were found, and police believe one or more attackers used a tire iron or something similar to break the glass, Smith said. □

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Ex-judge gets 17 1/2 years in kickbacks case

MICHAEL RUBINKAM

Associated Press

SCRANTON, Pennsylvania

(AP) — A former judge who orchestrated a massive kickback scheme involving for-profit youth detention centers was sentenced Friday to 17 1/2 years in federal prison, closing a major chapter on a scandal that prosecutors said shook Pennsylvania's judicial system "to its very foundation."

Appearing in a federal courtroom in Scranton, former Luzerne County President Judge Michael Conahan, 59, apologized to the incarcerated youths, the legal community and the public for his role in the notorious "kids for cash" case. "The system is not corrupt," said Conahan. "I was corrupt." Conahan, a once-powerful man who regularly met for breakfast with the reputed boss of a northeastern Pennsylvania Mafia family, offered a direct apology to the children who spent time in a pair of youth lockups from which he and another former judge derived millions of dollars.

"My actions undermined your faith in the system and contributed to the difficulty in your lives," said Conahan, who pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy last year. "I am sorry you were victimized."

Federal prosecutors said Conahan and former Luzerne County Judge Mark Ciavarella Jr. took more than \$2 million in bribes from the builder of the PA Child Care and Western PA Child Care detention centers and extorted hundreds of thousands of dollars from the facilities' co-owner. Ciavarella took the case to trial and was convicted of some of the charges. He was sentenced last month to 28 years in prison.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned about 4,000 juvenile convictions after Ciavarella and Conahan were charged, saying that Ciavarella, who presided over juvenile

court, routinely trampled on youths' constitutional rights in his eagerness to send them to the for-profit jails.

Unlike Ciavarella, who denied jailing youths for money and defiantly attacked the government's case at his sentencing, Conahan accepted

1/2-year sentence but that it would not be appealed.

In sentencing Conahan, Kosik spoke of the deep-rooted political culture that produced him, one in which corruption is tacitly accepted. The federal government's four-year investigation of public corruption in Luzerne and



Former Luzerne County Judge Michael Conahan and his wife Barbara arrive at the federal courthouse, Friday Sept. 23, 2011, in Scranton, Pa.. Conahan, a former judge who orchestrated a massive kickback scheme involving for-profit youth detention centers was sentenced Friday to 17 1/2 years in federal prison, closing a major chapter on a scandal that prosecutors said shook Pennsylvania's judicial system "to its very foundation."

(AP Photo/The Citizens' Voice, Mark Moran)

responsibility, Assistant U.S. Attorney William Houser acknowledged Friday. But he said Conahan's crimes required a stiff sentence.

Ciavarella and Conahan initially pleaded guilty in February 2009 to honest services fraud and tax evasion in a deal that would have required them to spend more than seven years in prison. But their plea deals were rejected later that year by U.S.

District Judge Edwin M. Kosik, who ruled they had failed to accept responsibility for their actions. Conahan, who had faced up to 20 years behind bars, had requested a prison term similar to the seven-plus years Kosik rejected two years ago. Gelso said outside the court that Conahan was "bitterly disappointed" by the 17

Lackawanna counties has snared more than 30 people, including state lawmakers, county officials, school board members and others.

In a letter to Kosik, Conahan's sister recalled their father, dealing with a long-ago ethics investigation, couldn't understand why it was wrong to award a contract to a friend. Kosik said Conahan probably felt the same way about the juvenile-center kickbacks: "That everyone would benefit and no one would get hurt." Investigators disclosed earlier this year that they were led to the judges by reputed mob boss William D'Elia, who became a government informant after his 2006 arrest on charges of witness tampering and conspiracy to launder drug money. □



Oil workers sit inside a helicopter after being rescued by the Navy, 50 miles (80 kilometers) off the coast of the Gulf state of Campeche, by the ship Bourbon Artavaze and taken by helicopter to Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico. Two oil workers who survived days floating on a life raft in the Gulf of Mexico after they evacuated their disabled vessel during a tropical storm have filed lawsuits claiming the workers were abandoned by another ship that could have taken them to safety.

(AP Photo/SEMAR)

Lawsuits filed by workers who floated days in Gulf

JUAN A. LOZANO

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Two oil workers who survived days floating on a life raft in the Gulf of Mexico after they evacuated their disabled vessel during a tropical storm have filed lawsuits claiming the workers were abandoned by another ship that could have taken them to safety.

The family of a third worker who died during the ordeal has also sued. The three men were among 10 oil workers on a ship in the Bay of Campeche who had to abandon the vessel on Sept. 8 after it was crippled by Tropical Storm Nate.

The workers' attorney, Francis Spagnoletti, said Friday that the men all suffered a harrowing ordeal that could have been prevented. Among other things, Spagnoletti said the workers had to float in shark-infested waters and drink their own urine.

The lawsuits were filed earlier this week in federal court in Galveston, southeast of Houston, by Ted Derise Jr. and Jeremy Parfait, two of the surviving workers, along with the family of Craig Myers. □

US Gen: Mexico part of 'North American family'

DAN ELLIOTT

Associated Press

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colorado (AP) — The U.S. shares responsibility with Mexico for confronting the danger posed by international crime rings that ship drugs across the border, a top American general said Friday. Army Gen. Charles H. Jacoby Jr., head of the U.S. Northern Command, said Mexico isn't just a neighbor but "part of our North American family."

Jacoby spoke of developing an effective relationship with the Mexican military during a briefing with reporters at Northern Command headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. He credited his predecessor, Adm. James Winnefeld, for bringing "depth, breadth, and just as importantly, warmth" to the relationship between the two countries' militaries.

U.S. involvement south of its border is a sensitive issue in Mexico, where it is seen by some as interference. □

Feds: 4 alleged mob figures in custody

LAURA CRIMALDI

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island

(AP) — Federal agents on Friday said they have put a major dent in the ranks of the New England mafia after arresting four of its alleged members and associates, including a capo accused of continuing to shake down Providence-area strip clubs following the arrest of a reputed former boss in January. Alleged New England La Cosa Nostra capo Edward "Eddy" Lato, 64, alleged "made" member Alfred "Chippy" Scivola, 70, and accused mob associates Raymond "Scarface" Jenkins, 47, and Albino "Albi" Folcarelli, 53, were arrested Friday in Rhode Island. All four were ordered held without bail at separate court appearances.

They are charged in a superseding second indictment tied to the January arrest of alleged former boss Luigi "Baby Shacks" Man-

occhio, 83, who is accused with others of shaking down Providence-area strip clubs beginning in the mid-1980s for at least \$2 million. The indictment includes new allegations about Manocchio's role in the extortion plot of establishments including the Satin Doll, the Foxy Lady, Desire and Cadillac Lounge. Federal officials said at a press conference that they will continue to zero in on La Cosa Nostra until it's snuffed out. "The criminal activity of the New England La Cosa Nostra has been severely disrupted," said Jeffrey S. Sallet, FBI supervisory special agent in Providence, adding that authorities have "shattered 'omerta' — the New England (mafia)'s code of silence." Manocchio has pleaded not guilty and is being held on bail awaiting trial. His attorney, Joseph J. Balliro, did not immediately return a message. Manocchio's co-defendant, Thomas Iafrate,



Peter Neronha, center, U.S. attorney for the district of Rhode Island, announces the arrest of four alleged members and associates of the New England La Cosa Nostra, as Lanny Breuer, left, assistant Attorney General for the Dept. of Justice Criminal Division, and Jeff Sallet, right, F.B.I. resident agent in charge of the R.I. field office, listen, Friday, Sept. 23, 2011, in Providence, R.I. The New England mob associates were allegedly involved with a plot to shake down Rhode Island strip clubs and adult entertainment businesses.

(AP Photo/Stew Milne)

70, pleaded guilty in July to racketeering conspiracy and is awaiting sentencing next month. The indictment says that after the arrest of Manocchio and Iafrate, Lato — the alleged leader of the mafia's Rhode Island crew — sought to continue to collect "protection" payments from several clubs. In particular, the indictment says, Lato fixated on getting Desire and the Cadillac Lounge to resume payments while lamenting that law enforcement was trailing him whenever he traveled to Massachusetts to meet with an unidentified high-ranking mafia figure. "Every time I leave there's someone looking at me ... there's a guy on the corner in a car every (expletive) time. It's got to be something right," Lato is quoted as saying. □

Victim in US grizzly attack was shot by friend

MATTHEW BROWN

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Montana (AP) — A hunter attacked by a wounded grizzly in a forest was killed not by the bear, but by a gunshot fired by a companion trying to save him, authorities said Friday.

Sheriff Roby Bowe said an autopsy determined that 39-year-old Steve Stevenson of Nevada died of a single gunshot to the chest. The cause of death was determined by a medical examiner with the Montana State Crime Lab. The shot was fired by 20-year-old Ty Bell, also of Nevada, as he attempted to stop the bear's attack. No charges are expected. The autopsy also found bite marks on Stevenson's leg caused by the bear. "We're fairly convinced it was obviously an accident," Bowe said. "But the county attorney will review the final report once we're done."

Bell and Stevenson were on a black bear hunting trip with two other people along the Montana-Idaho border when the attack occurred Sept. 16. The foursome had split into two-member teams and early in the day Bell shot and wounded what he thought was a black bear. He and Stevenson tracked the 400-pound (180-kilogram) grizzly into thick cover, where it turned on the men. Stevenson's family has said he yelled at the bear to distract it and keep it from attacking Bell. When it instead went after Stevenson, Bell fired multiple shots trying to kill the animal, Bowe said. It was unclear how many times the bear was hit, or whether the bullet that hit Stevenson had first traveled through the bear. Bowe said that possibility was under investigation. The bear also died. It is illegal to kill grizzly bears, and the case is under investigation by wildlife agents. □



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US Muslim students guilty of disrupting speech

MY TAXIN

Associated Press

SANTA ANA, California (AP)

— A jury on Friday convicted 10 Muslim students of disrupting a talk by the Israeli ambassador on a university campus in a case that has stoked an intense debate about free speech. The jury also convicted the students of conspiring to disrupt Ambassador Michael Oren's speech in February 2010 at the University of California, Irvine. They were charged with misdemeanor counts after standing up, one by one, and shouting prepared statements such as "propagating murder is not an expression of free speech." Orange County Superior Court Judge Peter J. Wilson sentenced the defendants to 56 hours of community service and three years of informal probation. The judge found that the incident did not merit jail time and he added that the probation period would be reduced to one year if the community service is completed by the end of January 2012. Minimal court



Four students, from left: Taher Herzallah, Mohammad Qureashi, Aslam Traina, and Mohamad Abdelgany pray outside court after being convicted of disrupting a speech by Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren, at the University of California, Irvine, last year, at the Central Justice Center court, Friday, Sept. 23, 2011 in Santa Ana, Calif. A California jury on Friday convicted 10 Muslim students of illegally disrupting Oren's speech in a case that has stoked an intense debate about free speech.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

finances and fees were also assessed against the 10. About 150 people, including relatives and supporters of the students and Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas, attended the verdict. Some community members gasped and started crying when

the verdict was read and about a dozen walked out. The students showed little reaction but later huddled with their attorneys and shared hugs with family and friends.

Shakeel Syed of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California said he was shocked.

"This is yet another reaffirmation that Islamophobia is intensely and extensively alive and thriving in Orange County," he said. "I believe this will be used

as precedent now to suppress speech and dissent throughout the country. This is the beginning of the death of democracy."

A coalition of Muslim and Christian community leaders denounced the verdict and vowed to stand by the students.

They praised the students' courage for standing up to Oren and protesting the Israeli government's actions in Gaza in the tradition of American civil rights leaders.

"This attack against Muslim students and the Muslim community is an attack on democracy. It's an attack on all of us," Father Wilfredo Benitez, rector of St. Anselm of Canterbury Episcopal Church in Garden Grove. "It's an attack on all of us. It's an attack on all those people who believe in the U.S. Constitution and freedom of speech."

UC Irvine said in a statement that it supports free speech.

"We nurture a campus climate that promotes robust debate and welcomes different points of view," said Rex Bossert, a university spokesman.

The verdict was praised by the sponsor of Oren's speech, the Rose Project of Jewish Federation & Family Services, Orange County. □

Ex-Army captain gets 10 years for taking bribes

MATTHEW BARAKAT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)

— A decorated former Army captain was sentenced Friday to 10 years in prison for taking more than \$300,000 in bribes from Afghan contractors, a scheme the government called the largest bribery case to be prosecuted related to the U.S. mission in Afghanistan. Sidharth "Tony" Handa, 32, who received the Bronze Star for his service in Afghanistan, was arrested early this year. He had been targeted in an undercover sting in which Handa agreed to help a purported heroin dealer who had promised to help Handa collect additional bribe payments he believed were owed to him.

According to federal prosecutors in Alexandria, Virginia, Handa was assigned to help coordinate reconstruction projects in Afghanistan's Kunar province. He solicited \$1.3 million in bribes and received \$315,000, which he split with an interpreter. □

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Jury selected in Jackson Dr's case



Dr. Conrad Murray, singer Michael Jackson's personal physician.
(AP Photo/Irfan Khan, File)

LINDA DEUTSCH

AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than two years after Michael Jackson was found dead in a Los Angeles mansion, a judge swore in jurors Friday to hear the case against the doctor accused of killing him with an overdose of a powerful anesthetic.

After months of investigation, Dr. Conrad Murray was charged with involuntary manslaughter in February 2010. Since then, both sides have jockeyed to frame the case in their favor.

Prosecutors contend Murray was negligent in administering to Jackson a lethal dose of the anesthetic propofol and other sedatives in the bedroom of the singer's rented mansion without access to proper life-saving equipment.

Murray's attorneys have floated theories that the 50-year-old singer may have given himself the fatal dosage in June 2009 and say the Houston-based cardiologist did not give the

singer anything that should have killed him.

Murray has pleaded not guilty and could face four years in prison and loss of his medical license if convicted.

Opening statements were scheduled Tuesday in the case. The seven-man, five-woman jury was selected after less than six hours of questioning by a judge, defense attorneys and prosecutors.

The speed with which the panel was seated is likely a result of the exhaustive 30-page questionnaire the group filled out earlier this month when jury selection began.

Deputy District Attorney David Walgren joked with prospective jurors that the process seemed like "the courtroom version of speed dating, trying to get the most information in a short time." □

Anthony owes \$217K for Caylee's search



From left, Cindy Anthony and George Anthony, parents of 25-year-old Casey Anthony, are shown during an interview with Dr. Phil McGraw of the "Dr. Phil" show, in Los Angeles. A judge has increased the reimbursement costs Casey Anthony must pay to investigators for searching for her missing 2-year-old daughter three years ago.

(AP Photo/CBS Television Distribution)

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — A judge has increased the reimbursement costs Casey Anthony must pay to investigators for searching for her missing 2-year-old daughter three years ago. Judge Belvin Perry signed an order Friday adding another \$119,000 to the bill she must pay four law enforcement agencies in

central Florida.

The new amount brings the total to more than \$217,000. That's still short of the \$500,000 prosecutors were seeking.

The additional amount comes from the Orange County Sheriff's Office providing the judge with more details about their costs.

Anthony was acquitted in July on charges of murdering her daughter, Caylee. But the 25-year-old was convicted of four misdemeanor counts of lying to authorities. She told officers a baby sitter had kidnapped the child. Authorities later learned the baby sitter never existed. □

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THE LION KING 3D	daily: 4:30 - 6:45 matinee: 12:00 - 2:15	PG
THE HELP	daily: 5:00 - 8:15 matinee: 1:45 late show: 11:15	PG-13
COLOMBIANA	daily: 4:00 - 6:30 - 9:00 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:30	PG-13
DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK	daily: 9:00 matinee: 1:00 - 3:30 late show: 11:30	R

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CONTAGION	daily: 4:00 - 6:30 - 9:00 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:30	SP PG-13
THE LION KING	daily: 5:00 - 7:15 matinee: 12:30 - 2:45	PG
I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DOES IT	daily: 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45 matinee: 12:45 - 3:00 late show: 12:00	PG-13
COLOMBIANA	daily: 9:30 matinee: 12:00 late show: 11:30	PG-13
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Yemen president's return hikes fear of escalation

AHMED AL-HAJ
SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh abruptly returned home to Yemen on Friday after more than three months of being treated in Saudi Arabia for wounds from an assassination attempt, in a move apparently aimed to ensure his grip as his loyalists and opponents wage urban warfare in the capital. Hours after his return, fighting intensified as government forces in armored vehicles closed in on the thousands of opposition activists in the capital's main protest camp, which had already been under heavy bombardment by mortar shells throughout the day. The bloodshed reinforced fears that Saleh's return signaled an escalation of fighting into a full-fledged attempt to crush his rivals. The White House was blindsided by the sudden return. U.S. officials conceded it was a surprise and said Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton wasn't warned of Saleh's plans when she met Tuesday in New York with the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, which has been working with Washington and Yemen to try to arrange a transfer of power. The return could be a significant blow to those attempts. A degree of stability in the strategic but impoverished Arab nation is a

priority for the United States, which wants a partner to continue the fight against one of al-Qaida's most active branches, based in Yemen and accused of plotting attacks in the U.S. Islamic militants have already exploited months of

doing all the talking," Obal said. After midnight, forces from the Central Security Police, including some in armored vehicles, moved in on neighborhoods around the capital's main protest camp, known as Change Square. Thousands of pro-

ment forces continued to lob mortar shells into the square, setting several activists' tents on fire, said protester Walid Rafei. Throughout the day, three people were killed there, according to medic Mohammed al-Qabati.

"We love you, Ali," chanted thousands massed on Boulevard 70, a street near the presidential compound. The return threatens to further break open the deep divisions that have riven Yemen since the protest movement kicked off in February demanding Saleh's ouster and an end to his authoritarian regime. Saleh's security forces cracked down hard on protesters, killing hundreds, which prompted members of his government, military and allied tribes to join the opposition. In early June, an explosion ripped through a mosque where Saleh was praying in his Sanaa presidential compound. The blast left him severely burned over much of his body and wounded with wooden shards, and nearly a dozen of his top aides were seriously wounded. Saleh has since been in Saudi Arabia for treatment. Both the U.S. and Saudi Arabia were believed to be trying to keep Saleh from leaving Saudi Arabia, and signing onto a deal proposed by Gulf Arab states, under which he would resign and hand power to his vice president to form a national unity government in return for immunity from any prosecution. The mercurial Saleh has repeatedly promised to sign the agreement, then refused at the last minute. White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said Friday. □



Supporters of Yemen's President Ali Abdulllah Saleh stand on flag poles celebrating his return to Sanaa, Yemen, Friday, Sept. 23, 2011. President Ali Abdullah Saleh made a surprise return to Yemen on Friday after more than three months of medical treatment in Saudi Arabia in a move certain to further enflame battles between forces loyal to him and his opponents that have turned the capital into a war zone.

(AP Photo/Hani Mohammed)

turmoil to seize control of cities in southern Yemen. Abdullah Obal, an opposition leader, said he believed Saleh "returned to run the war and drive the country into an all-out civil war." "The cannons are now speaking. Gunfire is

testers have held a sit-in there since the start of their movement in February. The police waged gunbattles with an army unit that defected months ago and is guarding the protesters at the square, witnesses said. At the same time, govern-

Saleh made no immediate public appearances, but his return breathed life into the camp of his supporters who turned up in the thousands for the Friday sermon that became a massive show of faith in the country's leader for 33 years.

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Knox trial: Italian prosecutors sum up their case

ALESSANDRA RIZZO

Associated Press

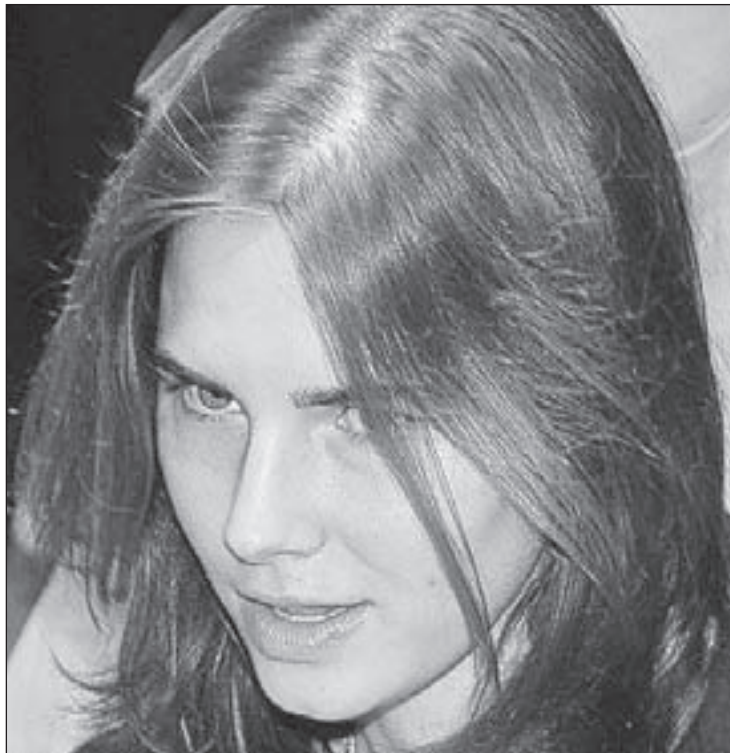
PERUGIA, Italy (AP) — Italian prosecutors have urged an appeals court to uphold the murder conviction of Amanda Knox despite what they called a media campaign in support of the American student, asking the jurors to think instead of the young victim whose life was brutally ended.

In the first round of closing arguments that took seven hours Friday, the prosecutors summed up circumstantial evidence, testimony and other clues they believe point solely to Knox and Raffaele Sollecito. They sought to move past a recent independent review of genetic evidence, which cast doubt on key traces used to link the defendants to the murder and dealt a significant blow to the prosecution's case.

"All clues converge toward the only possible result of finding the defendants guilty," Prosecutor Giancarlo Costagliola said.

Prosecutors will wrap up their arguments Saturday. They could seek stiffer sentences, including life imprisonment or ask the court to uphold the current jail terms. A verdict is expected at the end of September or early October.

Knox and Sollecito were convicted of sexually assaulting and murdering Knox's British roommate, Meredith Kercher, on the night of Nov. 1,



Amanda Knox arrives at the courthouse for the appeal trial in Perugia, Italy, Friday, Sept. 23, 2011. Prosecutors began closing arguments in a bid to uphold the murder conviction of American student Amanda Knox in the 2007 slaying of her roommate, with Knox's family hopeful that a review of DNA evidence during the long appeals trial will lead to her release. A verdict is expected in early October, after the defense, the victim's family and probably Knox herself make their case.

(AP Photo/Stefano Medici)

2007, when they were all students in Perugia. Knox was sentenced to 26 years in prison; Sollecito to 25. Both deny wrongdoing and have appealed the lower court's verdict in December 2009.

Speaking in a packed courtroom, the prosecutors sought to focus the jury's attention on Kercher and her family's pain, against a backdrop of

what they described as media fascination with the photogenic Knox.

Costagliola urged the jurors to try and "feel a little bit like the parents of Meredith Kercher."

Another prosecutor, Giuliano Mignini, said he will never forget Kercher's wide open eyes when he inspected the crime scene. He then juxtaposed gruesome photos from the murder with a snapshot of the defendants kissing shortly after Kercher's body was found.

"The victim has sunk into an absolute and shameful oblivion, made more intolerable by the media's morbid exaltation of the two people sitting on the defendant's bench," Mignini said. He urged jurors not to be deceived by the defendants' clean-cut appearances, saying "there's a dark side in all of us."

The prosecutors argue that the 21-year-old Kercher was the victim of a drug-fu-

eled sex assault. In the first trial, the prosecutors had sought life sentences — Italy's stiffest punishment. Like the defendant, they have also appealed the lower court's verdict, as they can in Italy.

On Friday, the prosecutors reviewed their case in great detail: bloody footprints found in the house that are compatible with those of the defendants, cell phone activity and witness testimony that appear to contradict the defendant's alibi that they spent the night at Sollecito's house and stayed there until about 10 a.m. the day after the murder, and a staged burglary at the house of the murder aimed at sidetracking the investigation.

They reminded the court that Knox initially gave contradicting accounts on the night of the murder, at one point accusing a Congolese man who was briefly arrested as a result of that claim, and later cleared. □

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Haiti president:

UN made errors but should stay

JONATHAN M. KATZ

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Haiti's new president said Friday that U.N. peacekeepers have committed "unacceptable errors" in his country but they should remain to help with the stalled post-earthquake reconstruction.

President Michael Martelly's first speech to the U.N. General Assembly bridged the anti-U.N. sentiment he campaigned on in an election held months after the January 2010 earthquake with his more conciliatory approach to the foreign troops since taking office.

"I am aware of the fact that unacceptable errors were committed that marred the prestige of the mission, but the trees must not hide the forest," Martelly said.

Martelly also acknowledged the stalled efforts in the Caribbean nation of 10 million to recover from the horrific earthquake by calling for better coordination in relief efforts along with more effort to allow affected, often impoverished countries to take a leading role in their own rebuilding. "We've experienced epidemics, hunger, exclusion, but Haiti is now back on its feet ready to rebuild itself," he said.

At times the president seemed to be speaking more to Haitians who might have been listening at home than to the assembly.

Near the end the president, who has a shaved head, broke into a Haitian Creole phrase quoting his cam-



U.N. peacekeepers from Brazil watch demonstrators protest against the U.N.'s peacekeeping mission in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Friday Sept. 23, 2011. Haitians have been protesting the mission since five Uruguayan sailors were accused of sexually abusing a young Haitian man in Port-Salut in July. The sailors returned to Uruguay on Sept. 16 and a judge ordered them held in preventive detention.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

paign slogan "Tet Kale", or "bald head." Martelly, a longtime performer and recording artist with the stage name Sweet Micky, popularized a type of Haitian dance music known as compas.

The president's position regarding the U.N. peacekeeping force has been a major theme of his diplomacy during the opening week of the General Assembly. The force has been in Haiti since 2004. It was hard-hit by the earthquake but increased its troop levels to more than 12,000 soldiers and police in the weeks that followed.

There have been mixed feelings about the troops for years, seen by some Haitians as a vital security force in a country with an understaffed and underpaid police force and others as an unwelcome mili-

tary occupier.

Sentiment in Haiti has turned further against the U.N. mission following claims, since backed up by scientific studies, that an unsanitary base that used by peacekeepers from Nepal was the source of a cholera epidemic that has killed more than 6,200 people.

Then this month, five sailors with the mission were repatriated to Uruguay and jailed after a cell-phone video surfaced which opponents say show them sexually abusing an 18-year-old Haitian man.

Protesters have since clashed with police in the Haitian capital and other cities in recent weeks demanding the troops' exit. Factions eager for the peacekeepers to leave have also tried to capitalize on the frustrations. □

Zambia's new president promises jobs, education



Zambia's new President Michael Sata, right, takes the oath of office on the steps of the supreme court in Lusaka, Zambia, Friday Sept. 23, 2011. Sata defeated incumbent Zambia's President Rupiah Banda in Tuesday Sept. 20 elections. The man who once threatened to expel "bogus" Chinese investors became Zambia's new president Friday on the back of a campaign that promised jobs and education, and played down the anti-China rhetoric that had failed to win him traction in three previous elections.

(AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

L. MWANANGOMBE

MICHELLE FAUL

Associated Press

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) —

The man who once threatened to expel "bogus" Chinese investors became Zambia's new president on the back of a campaign that promised jobs and education, and played down the anti-China rhetoric that had failed to win him traction in three previous elections.

Michael Sata's fourth and successful attempt ends 20 years in power for the Movement for Multiparty Democracy, under whose guidance China has become a major role player that underpins the southern African nation's thriving economy with investments of nearly \$3 billion.

Sata won 1,150,045 votes, or 43 percent of the total, to 961,796 votes, or 36.1 percent for incumbent Rupiah Banda, according to early results announced Friday by the Electoral Commission. Eight other candidates shared the remaining votes cast.

In 2008, Sata lost to Banda by just 35,000 votes. Sata's supporters celebrated by setting off fireworks and dancing in the streets. On Friday morning, joyful followers overwhelmed the Supreme Court compound where Sata was to be inaugurated, temporarily delaying the ceremony.

Counting had gone on for two days, sparking riots Thursday by Sata militants in three towns of the northern Copperbelt region. □

U.S. eyes opportunities in Libya as embassy reopens

DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
© 2011 New York Times

TRIPOLI, Libya – The United States formally reopened its embassy in Libya Thursday as the returning ambassador said that his government was cautiously optimistic about the country's future and already trying to help U.S. companies exploit business opportunities there.

Speaking to reporters after the ceremonial flag raising over a makeshift post that was once his residence, Ambassador Gene A. Cretz said that about two weeks ago – roughly a week after forces loyal to the deposed Libyan leader, Moammar Gadhafi, were driven out of Tripoli – he had participated in a State Department conference call with about 150 U.S. companies hoping to do business with Libya.

"We know that oil is the jewel in the crown of Libyan natural resources, but even in Gadhafi's time they were starting from A to Z in terms of building infrastructure and other things" after the country had begun opening up to the West six years



Gene Cretz, right, U.S. ambassador to Libya, presides over a flag raising ceremony as part of the reopening of the American Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, Sept. 22, 2011. Cretz said that the United States was cautiously optimistic about Libya's future and that he was already trying to help American companies exploit business opportunities there.

(Moises Saman/The New York Times)

ago, he said. "If we can get U.S. companies here on a fairly big scale, which we will try to do everything we can to do that, then this will redound to improve the situation in the United States with respect to our own jobs."

His remarks were a rare nod to the tacit economic stakes in the Libyan conflict for the United States and other Western countries, not only because of Libya's oil resources but also because of the goods

and services those resources enable it to purchase. Oil was never the "predominant reason" for the U.S. intervention, Cretz said, but his comments – which came at a moment when the fighters who chased out Gadhafi have not yet caught him or fully vanquished his forces – underlined the U.S. eagerness for a cut of any potential profits.

Elsewhere Thursday, Tripoli's new leaders continued to inch toward their goals of subduing the old government and building a new one. Officials of neighboring Tunisia said Thursday that on the previous night their security forces had arrested the last of Gadhafi's figurehead prime ministers, Al-Baghdadi Ali al-Mahmoudi, for crossing its border illegally while fleeing Libya.

A Tunisian court immediately sentenced him to six months in prison for illegal entry, the government said. The Libyan provisional government said that anti-Gadhafi fighters continued to battle loyalist forces in

the area around Gadhafi's southern stronghold and onetime childhood home of Sabha. Anti-Gadhafi fighters also remained locked in standoffs with Gadhafi forces in his other two remaining bastions, Sirte on the Mediterranean coast and Bani Walid in the desert south of Tripoli. Libya's provisional government has already said it is eager to welcome Western businesses, although both Cretz and the Libyan leaders acknowledged that addressing the rampant corruption of the Gadhafi era remains a potential hurdle. In a news conference last week, Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, chairman of Libya's Transitional National Council – the civilian leadership of the former rebels – said the new government would give its Western backers some "priority" in access to Libyan business. There had been no promises to its Western supporters, he said, "But as a faithful Muslim people we will appreciate these efforts and they will have priority within a framework of transparency." □

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Pope meets with sex abuse victims

MELISSA EDDY

VICTOR L. SIMPSON

Associated Press

ERFURT, Germany (AP) —

Pope Benedict XVI has met with German victims of sexual abuse by priests and expressed "deep compassion and regret" at the suffering of those abused by members of the clergy, the Vatican said.

The pope met for half an hour Friday with five victims on the second day of his four-day state visit to his native Germany, following an ecumenical service with members of the country's Lutheran church and an evening vesper held in a small chapel nestled deep in the former East Germany.

Germany's Catholic church has seen the numbers of faithful leaving the congregation jump, after hundreds of people came forward last year with stories of having been physically or sexually abused by members of the clergy. Church leaders had expressed hope that Benedict's visit could help heal wounds left by the scan-



Benedict XVI blesses the faithful as he celebrates a Marian vesper ceremony in Etzelsbach, eastern Germany, Friday, Sept. 23, 2011. Pope Benedict XVI has met with German victims of sexual abuse by priests and expressed "deep compassion and regret" at the suffering of those abused by members of the clergy, the Vatican said.

(AP Photo/Andrew Medichini, pool)

dal. Benedict has been accused by victims groups and their lawyers of being part of systematic practice of cover-up by church hierarchy for pedophile priests, in his earlier roles as

an archbishop in Germany and later at the helm of the Vatican morals office.

The Vatican said in a statement following Friday's meeting that the pope was "moved and deeply shaken" and is close to the victims. He expresses the hope that God "may heal the wounds of the victims and

grant them inner peace," the Vatican said.

Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi said the victims were two women and three men from all over Germany. He said the meeting was held in "very calm" circumstances and that a member of the hotline service set up

by Germany's church to field abuse claims was also present.

The pope assured the group that church officials are "seriously concerned" about dealing with crimes of abuse and are committed to enact effective measures to protect children, the Vatican said.

The pope has had similar meetings on trips to the U.S., Australia, Malta and Britain, all hit by the worldwide sex abuse scandal that has plagued the Roman Catholic church over the past decades. In Germany, claims began to emerge in 2010.

Emmanuel Henckens of Belgium, a member of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests said the German meeting, "will make a handful of wounded individuals feel better for a while," but will do nothing "to stop priests from molesting kids, or bishops from concealing crimes."

Benedict started Friday in Berlin with a close-door meeting with leaders from Germany's Muslim community. He told them that he understood the "great importance" they placed on the religious dimension of life. □



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Turkey: US likely to deploy Predators

SELCAN HACAOGU

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — The U.S. will likely deploy some Predator drones on Turkish soil, the Turkish prime minister said Friday. Turkey has been pressing for the drones in an escalating war against Kurdish rebels.

The U.S. shares drone surveillance data from northern Iraq with Ankara to aid its fight against Kurdish rebels who have bases in Iraq. The two countries have been negotiating the possible deployment of Predator drones after the U.S. leaves Iraq.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Friday the two allies have agreed "in principle" over the deployment of the drones in Turkey, the state-run Anatolia news agency said. Turkey has offered to purchase or lease the drones, Erdogan said.

"Our negotiations will continue," Anatolia quoted Erdogan as saying. "The developments are moving toward an agreement." Turkey is operating Israeli-made Heron drones against the Kurdish rebels who have been fighting for autonomy in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast since 1984. They have stepped up attacks on security forces in recent months, who have retali-

ated with airstrikes in the rebels' suspected bases in northern Iraq.

Paramilitary police on Friday defused a powerful bomb believed to be planted by Kurdish rebels on a bridge in the country's southeast, and police also averted a possible attack in western resort town popular with foreign tourists.

The attempted attacks came a day after police detained a would-be Kurdish rebel bomber. Kurdish rebels have dramatically stepped up attacks in Turkey. Friday's thwarted attack stoked more fears a day after a Kurdish militant group, the Kurdistan Freedom Falcons, claimed responsibility for a car bomb attack near a school in the Turkish capital of Ankara that killed three people and wounded 34 on Tuesday.

The paramilitary police, acting on a tip, discovered 125 kilograms (275 pounds) of booby-trapped explosives planted on a highway bridge between the cities of Bingol and Elazig in the country's southeast. The explosives, containing ammonium nitrate and C-4 plastic explosives, were stashed in four large gas canisters as well as a pressure cooker, the governor's office in Bingol said. □



Michael Bolton, Gilberto Santa Rosa and Olga Tanon were great! More Aruba Music Explosion tonight



PIEDRA PLAT – Saturday's final performance will feature Luis Fonsi, Felipe Peleaz and Servando & Florintino, the handsome balladeer Fonsi is a multi-threat award winner who writes and produces most of his work, and is a music idol to Latin people around the world. Felipe is one of the most popular performers to come out of Colombia. Servando and Florintino are the sons of an icon of the Venezuelan music industry, Ali Primera, also known as "The Voice of Venezuela". Last Thursday night, Michael Bolton headlined the Aruba Music Explosion with a double set in the Piedra Plat Festival Grounds. Unfortunately, Air Supply had to cancel due to unexpected circumstances. Bolton is a former hard rock singer, but is best known for his soft rock ballads and tenor/countertenor vocals. His achievements include selling eight top 10 albums, achieving two number one singles on the Billboard charts, and receiving awards from both the American Music Awards and Grammy Awards. Bolton began recording in 1975. This first album was self-titled using his original surname, Bolotin. Early in his musical career, he focused on hard rock. His band, Blackjack, once toured with heavy metal singer Ozzy Osbourne. Michael gained his first major hit as a songwriter, co-writing "How Am I Supposed to



Live Without You" for Laura Branigan, previously best-known for singing the pop hit "Gloria". Narrowly missing the Top 10 on the US pop chart, Branigan took the song to number one on the Adult Contemporary chart for three weeks in 1983. The two sought to work

with each other again, and their next collaboration was when Bolton co-wrote "I Found Someone" for Branigan in 1985. Her version was only a minor hit, but two years later, Cher resurrected the song, and with it her own singing career. Bolton co-wrote several other songs for both singers. □



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ORANJESTAD - One of the tenets of Jewish faith is the Repair of Our Broken World (Tikkun Olam). Every Jew must become involved in this daunting task. Awareness of one's weaknesses and offenses against God and our fellow man must be accompanied by corrective action to make this a better world, with kinder and more sensitive human beings. That is the meaning of the Jewish High Holidays.

The Jewish Community of Aruba, located at A. Lacle Blvd. # 2, cordially invites visitors to our island to the 5772 Rosh HaShanah religious services that Rabbi Mario Gurevich will be leading on Wednesday, September 28, at 7:00 P.M.

For more information please call 582 3272 or 582 1235. You can also send an e-mail to jcommaruba@gmail.com. □



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ORANJESTAD, RENAISSANCE MARKET-PLACE - CILO continues to stretch around the globe with its 'Summer Sundays' events. Once a month, marina-view CILO City Lounge changes its location to an imaginary, exciting destination somewhere in the world. Guests experience the best of both worlds by enjoying Aruba and sampling the delights of another fantastic destination.

This Sunday, September 25, we are going to America! The land of Stars and Stripes will be the theme for the night and include grilled hamburgers and hotdogs prepared on the outdoor terrace grill and t-bones, ribs and seafood on the American dinner specials menu, specials on Balashi Chill beer (2for1 from 9-11pm!) and American whisky.

Make sure to try the special cocktail 'Seaboard' which is a delicious mix of whiskey, gin, lime juice and mint. Finish the evening with an American apple crumble cake. There will be an outside grill and bar, high tables and the popular international band Joyride with an American-born lead singer performing live on stage from 9 to 11 pm.

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La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club Celebrates 20th Anniversary with an Elegant Party



Eagle Beach – La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club showed off its fully renovated lobby during an elegant party commemorating the 20th anniversary of the resort. The party was nicely catered by the culinary team, entertained by guitarist Ernesto Ferro and emceed by radio personal-

ity Ruben Garcia. The affair was hosted by resort General Manager Joe Najjar and Assistant General Manager Jessica Franken. In attendance were Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman, the President of the Aruban Parliament, Paul Croes, members of parliament, members of the re-

sort board of directors, past and present presidents of the board, board members for the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association, executives of the Aruba Tourism Authority, directors of the Aruba Time Share Association and the directors of the Aruba Hospitality & Security Foundation, as well as members of the press. Pictured here, the reception, in the tastefully transformed lobby graced by a beautiful blue, tiled-in elevator and a multi-functional 2nd floor lounge, glassed-in marble stairs and a fire and water sculpture, custom made for the resort which shot up white smoke in between relaxing sounds of waterfalls. The original, tropical, glass-in-lead mural above the lobby doors was preserved and showed magnificently, despite its age, as it was first inaugurated 21 years ago, when the lobby first opened. Pictured here party guests enjoying the resort's hospitality. □

\$6M MAN: Kobe gets offer to play in Italy

Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant, center, reacts during a basketball clinic on Saturday Sept. 17, 2011 in Singapore. Bryant says he's still considering playing overseas as an owners' lockout of players threatens to sabotage the upcoming NBA season.

Associated Press
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**NBA
postpones
camps,
cancels 43
preseason
games**



This May 17, 2011 file photo shows NBA deputy commissioner Adam Silver during a news conference before the 2011 NBA Draft Lottery, in Secaucus, N.J.

Associated Press

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The lock-out has started doing real damage to the NBA's calendar.

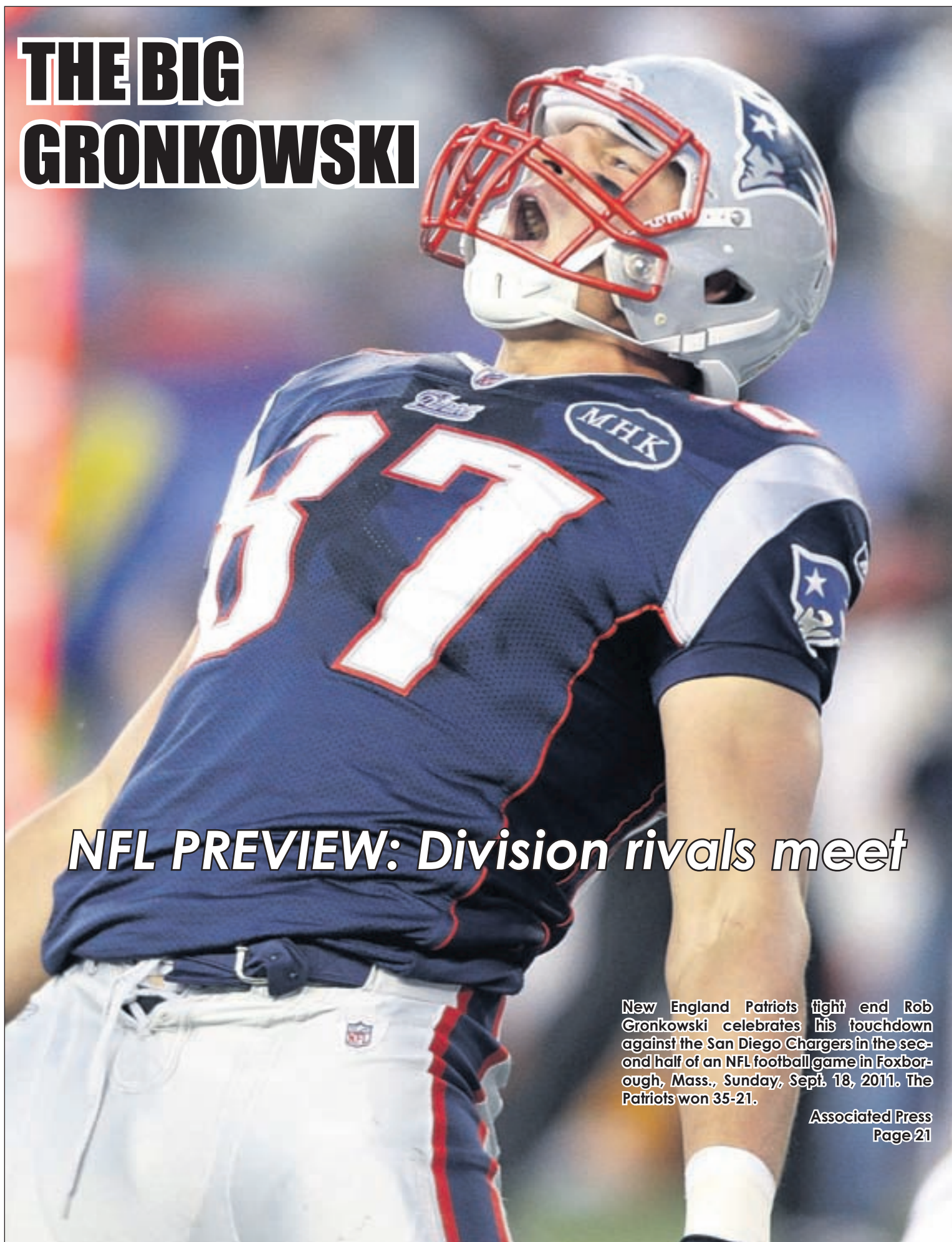
Players won't report at the usual time. The preseason won't start as scheduled.

And more cancellations could be necessary without a new labor deal soon.

Out of time to keep everything intact, the NBA postponed training camps indefinitely and canceled 43 preseason games Friday because it has not reached an agreement with players. All games from Oct. 9-15 are off, the league said. Camps were expected to open Oct. 3.

Continued on Page 22

THE BIG GRONKOWSKI



NFL PREVIEW: Division rivals meet

New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski celebrates his touchdown against the San Diego Chargers in the second half of an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011. The Patriots won 35-21.

Associated Press
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Augustus, Lynx roll to Game 1 win over Mercury



MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Seimone Augustus had 21 points and seven assists to lead the Minnesota Lynx to a 95-67 victory over the Phoenix Mercury in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals on Thursday.

Maya Moore scored 13 of her 15 points in the first quarter and Candice Wiggins added 14 off the bench for the top-seeded Lynx, who held the highest scoring team in the league 22 points below its regular season average.

Diana Taurasi had 22 points and five rebounds for the

Mercury, who were out-rebounded 42-26 and shot just 35.7 percent from the field.

The Lynx opened the game with a 15-3 run and the Mercury never got closer than six points the rest of the way.

Game 2 is Sunday in Phoenix.

*Fever 82, Dream 74

At Indianapolis, Tangel Smith scored 25 points and Tamika Catchings, announced as the league Most Valuable Player earlier in the day, had 12 points and 13 rebounds to Indiana past Atlanta in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

Atlanta's Angel McCoughtry, second in the league in scoring during the regular season, was held to 11 points — about 10.5 below her average. She played just 17 minutes and was in

foul trouble throughout. Atlanta had swept the regular-season series with the Fever 4-0, and McCoughtry averaged nearly 24 points in those games.

Lindsey Harding scored 17 points and Sancho Lyttle had 14 for the Dream.

Game 2 of the best-of-three series will be played Sunday in Atlanta. □

Indiana Fever forward Tamika Catchings holds the WNBA's most valuable player trophy before a WNBA Eastern Conference finals playoff game against the Atlanta Dream in Indianapolis, Thursday, Sept. 22, 2011.

Associated Press



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Adam Scott takes the lead at Tour Championship

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Australia's Adam Scott birdied his last two holes Friday for a 5-under 65 to emerge from a packed leaderboard and take a one-shot lead over K.J. Choi going into the weekend at the Tour Championship.

Scott, who won the Tour Championship in 2006, is No. 19 in the FedEx Cup, making him a long shot to capture the \$10 million bonus. His main concern was heading home to Australia after this week with the crystal trophy from the Tour Championship. His chances have changed, even if his focus hasn't.

Scott finished with two birdies for the second straight day on the tough closing holes at East Lake Golf Club. He hit a 9-iron from a divot on the 17th to 7 feet, then hit a 3-iron into about 10 feet on the par-3 18th to finish at 8-under 132.

"I just figured if I win this week, I'll be happy no matter what. I'll finish what I think has been a really good season," Scott said.

England's Luke Donald, the No. 1 player in the world and No. 4 in the FedEx Cup, shot 68 and was two shots behind with Australian Ja-

son Day, who had a 67.

Choi also had a 65 and will be in the final group Saturday with Scott.

Bubba Watson had the low round of the day at 64 and was three shots behind with Bill Haas and Keegan Bradley — a pair of Presidents Cup hopefuls — and Hunter Mahan.

Bradley, who had a two-shot lead after the opening round, bogeyed two of his first five holes and never quite recovered in his round of 71. Scott, who won the Tour Championship at East Lake in 2006 the year before the FedEx Cup was created, also had a scrappy start with three bogeys on the first six holes.

"I was pretty annoyed at myself, but I'm playing too good to let myself flip away at the moment," he said.

Scott proved that by running off four straight birdies, then adding another on No. 12 with a deft shot from a fairway bunker to about 8 feet that put him ahead of Day, who only six holes earlier had been five shots clear of Scott.

The two Australians were paired together in the final round of the Masters and finished in a share of second place. They went at it again in the second round

at East Lake.

"I'm in front and then he comes back, and then he's in front and I come back," Day said. "It does fire you up because everyone wants to win it, and you just want to go out there and play the best you can."

Donald made the turn at even par on the day, then kept bogeys off his card on the back nine to stay within range.

Donald is so high up on the FedEx Cup that he doesn't have to win to claim the \$10 million prize.

"I was very happy with the score," he said of his 68. "I didn't hit the ball quite as solidly today, and I didn't quite have as much control as I did yesterday. But you're not going to hit it perfectly for 72 holes. There's going to be days when you're going to have to really fight and have some good short game to get you out of some trouble. That was the case today."

Fourteen players were separated by five shots going into the weekend, a group that includes two of the top five players in the FedEx Cup standings — Donald and Matt Kuchar.

Brandt Snedeker, who finished 11th in the Presidents Cup standings and is hope-



Adam Scott of Australia, lines up his putt on the ninth green during the second round of the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta on Friday, Sept. 23, 2011

Associated Press

ful of being a captain's pick, birdied his last hole for a 69 and was only five behind. With two days remaining, there is no clear favorite for the FedEx Cup — or for the Tour Championship. "You get a bunch of good

players together, and these things are going to unfold like this," Scott said. "I think everyone is just enjoying being here and trying to do the best they can, because there's a lot at stake, obviously." □

Virtus Bologna makes an offer for Kobe Bryant

ANDREW DAMPF,
P Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Italian club Virtus Bologna has offered Kobe Bryant a €5 million (\$6.72 million) one-season contract during the NBA lockout.

The Los Angeles Lakers superstar spent part of his childhood in Italy while his father played in the country and he speaks Italian, prompting Bologna to hope he might want to return.

Virtus general manager Massimo Faraoni told The Associated Press on Friday that he has sat in on conference calls between Bryant's agent, Rob Pelinka, Bologna president Claudio Sabatini and main sponsor Canadian Solar, which would provide the cash for such a deal.

"I think the fact that he's lived in Italy makes this appealing to him," Faraoni said.



Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant, center, conducts a basketball clinic on Saturday Sept. 17, 2011 in Singapore. Bryant says he's still considering playing overseas as an owners' lockout of players threatens to sabotage the upcoming NBA season.

Associated Press

Virtus has given Bryant four different contract options, stretching from the one-year deal to two-month and one-month options, or a per-game deal that would work out to €550,000 (\$739,640) per home game. All of the offers are pretax and would allow Bryant to return to the Lakers immedi-

ately if the lockout ends. Canadian Solar said it was not involved directly in the dealings.

"The contract is being negotiated between Virtus and Kobe Bryant's agent. Canadian Solar is not at the negotiating table," said a statement from the company provided to the AP.

Turkish club Besiktas and at least one team in China have also expressed interest in the 33-year-old Bryant, who has won five NBA championships and been an All-Star 13 times.

Virtus has won 15 Italian league titles but none since 2001, when it also won the Euroleague for the second time. Virtus has asked fans to send messages supporting the recruitment of Bryant to a "Bologna for Bryant" email address, which will then be published on the team's website.

Bologna opens the Italian league against Roma on Oct. 9. It did not qualify for this season's Euroleague, although the team has big ambitions after signing former Clemson point guard Terrell McIntyre, who led Siena to four consecutive Italian titles before transferring to Malaga in Spain for last season.

"I think we already have a

competitive squad for Serie A, but Kobe is obviously a great champion and he would make a great addition to the team," Faraoni said. "I would put us just behind Milano and Siena."

Faraoni watched Bryant when he played in Pistoia's youth system in the late 1980s.

"I saw him when he was a kid, and he already had a lot of passion for the game then," Faraoni said.

Bryant's father, Joe "Jellybean" Bryant, played in Italy with Rieti, Reggio Calabria, Pistoia and Reggina from 1984 to 1991. The elder Bryant now coaches the Los Angeles Sparks in the WNBA.

Virtus has also reached out to another NBA star, Manu Ginobili, who played with Bologna before joining the San Antonio Spurs in 2002, although Ginobili said he wanted to wait before considering a return. □

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NFL division rivals meet up in Week 3

BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There's a meeting of undefeated NFL teams on this week's schedule. In Buffalo, of all places.

That's right, the New England Patriots, who almost always seem to start off 2-0, face the spotless Bills, who rarely sniff such rarefied air. It's one of eight games featuring division matchups, and perhaps the most enticing one. "This is the greatest opportunity we'll have," Bills running back Fred Jackson said of ending a 15-game losing streak against New England that dates to 2003. "They're a great team, but we feel like we're a great team. ... It will be a good test and a measuring stick for us." Everyone gets measured against the Patriots, who haven't lost in the regular season since Nov. 7, a span of 10 games. Their offense has been unstoppable thus far with Tom Brady throwing for 940 yards and seven touchdowns as New England put up 73 points — second only to ... Buffalo.

One group not quite sold on the Bills: The bookmakers, who have New England a 9-point favorite.

"I can honestly tell you I never even look at it. When the game starts it's 0-0," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "There's no favorite. There's no underdog."

Well, after 15 straight wins over a team, that's hardly accurate. "You hear a lot about how they've had our number," Bills linebacker Chris Kelsay. "That's fine and dandy to the outsiders. But we have a lot of confidence with guys in this room, and we're not going to lay down for anybody. We're preparing to win this game." The NFL's longest rivalry resumes with the unbeaten Green Bay Packers visiting the Chicago Bears. Lest we forget, the Bears won their division a year ago and hosted the Packers for the NFC championship. Also, lest we forget, the Packers won that game and then the Super Bowl. Green Bay keeps winning

even as it loses key players, a formula that didn't hurt in 2010. Now safety Nick Collins (neck) is gone for the year. "It's tough," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "We've been through the injury stuff before, but it's something you never get used to as a head coach." The Bears, still hurting from losing the NFC title match in January, can't afford to lose again the Packers or they will be in chase mode. But Chicago must find a way to protect Jay Cutler, who was sacked six times in a loss at New Orleans last weekend. No team has roared out of the gate like the Detroit Lions, whose 75-23 points differential tops the league. While most everyone is lauding the Lions' offense, those 23 points conceded and a No. 7 ranking on defense might be more impressive.

Minnesota led San Diego and Tampa Bay late in both of its defeats. Despite calls in the Twin Cities to bench Donovan McNabb, the Vikings won't be, uh, throwing Christian Ponder to the Lions, who are favored in Minnesota for the first time in three decades.

If Michael Vick (concussion) can't play, the Philadelphia Eagles will need similar heroics against the New York Giants to what they got from DeSean Jackson the last time the archrivals met. Philly has plenty of playmakers for third-stringer Mike Kafka if he is behind center, while the Giants can't seem to keep key players healthy and their depth has been tested everywhere.

New York's latest woes, other than sparking a league memo to teams not to fake injuries to stop play, include a concussion for wideout Mario Manningham and the loss of fellow receiver Domineke Hixon (right knee) for the season.

The other divisional games have Atlanta at Tampa Bay in the NFC South; Kansas City at San Diego in the AFC West; and Arizona at Seattle in the NFC West. Washington is at Dallas on Monday in the NFC East. □



New England Patriots nose tackle Vince Wilfork (75) runs over cornerback Devin McCourty (32) with the football after intercepting a pass as San Diego Chargers running back Mike Tolbert (35) reaches out to bring him down in the second quarter of an NFL football game Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011.
Associated Press



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Diana Nyad begins new attempt at Florida swim

PETER ORSI

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — American endurance swimmer Diana Nyad began her second attempt in as many months to traverse the 103 miles of sea between Cuba and Florida, waving goodbye to well-wishers before jumping feet first into the still water at a Havana marina, then stroking her way toward the horizon.

The 62-year-old Los Angeles woman hoped to break her own world record for open-water swimming without a shark cage that she set swimming from the Bahamas to Florida.

Her last attempt at the Cuba-to-Florida crossing failed Aug. 9 due to a crippling asthma attack that forced her gasping from the water after 29 hours.

Nyad insisted that this time around she was ready to brave the choppy seas, schools of jellyfish and limits of human exhaustion to accomplish her lifelong dream.

Just before she set off from Hemingway Marina on Friday evening, assistants smeared grease on her shoulders to prevent chafing during the planned 60-hour journey.

She pumped her fists in the air as her support team blew horns and cheered from waiting boats.

"I feel good. I feel very good," Nyad said. "But as you know, it really doesn't matter how I feel right now."

Before jumping in, Nyad weighed herself, tipping the scales at 146 pounds. She said she expected to lose about 15 pounds over the course of the journey. Her schedule called for to reach Florida early Monday morning.

She hoped to take advantage of what she called a "magical window" of calm seas and favorable weather forecast to last through the weekend.

After her Aug. 7 attempt failed, Nyad had vowed there would be no repeat, but she joked earlier Friday that nobody should have believed her.



U.S. swimmer Diana Nyad speaks with journalists before her swim from Cuba to Florida at the Hemingway Marina in Havana, Cuba, Friday Sept. 23, 2011.

Associated Press

"The asthma took me down, but ironically enough, that 29-hour swim was like a very, very expensive training swim," said Nyad, who earlier this year estimated it took a half-million dollars to get her to the first attempt. "I'm in better shape than before."

I'm more prepared than ever," she added.

Nyad was shooting to break her own 102.5-mile record for open-water swimming without the aid of a shark cage, set in 1979 when she stroked from the Bahamas to Florida.

She is relying on special equipment that surrounds her with an electric current imperceptible to humans but strong enough to keep most predators at bay. Kayakers also are paddling alongside to gently prod away any sharks that make it through.

For the length of the crossing, Nyad will not be allowed to touch the boat if the record is to count. Nor can her team physically aid her other than to pass

her food, medicine, a new swimsuit and so on.

She will try to sustain her energy by eating the likes of peanut butter sandwiches and pasta, and said she sings Beatles, Bob Dylan and Janis Joplin songs in her head to keep her mind occupied, especially during nighttime.

"I never ever — it's the cardinal rule — I never look up because it's very depressing to see the horizon with no lights, no nothing."

And I never ask my trainer here in the boat what time it is or, 'Are we almost there yet?'" Nyad said.

"They're going to tell me when we're about 10 hours away."

Nyad first tried to cross the Florida Straits as a 28-year-old back in 1978, when she swam inside a steel shark cage for about 42 hours before ending the attempt. Now 62, after celebrating her birthday Aug. 22, she has said she hopes to inspire people to lead active lives into their golden years.



NBA

Continued from Page 17

"Don't listen to athletes when they say it's over," she said.

Nyad likened herself to former boxer Roberto Duran, who retired in 1998 at age 47 only to re-enter the ring a year later.

Nyad denied her problems in the last attempt had anything to do with her age, saying she could have fought through the choppy waves and "excruciating" shoulder pain.

But she hadn't anticipated the 11-hour asthma attack that was provoked by a medicine she had never used before and had her flailing through the water "like a dying, floundering fish."

Even with those problems, she made it about 50 miles into the 103-mile haul.

In the ensuing weeks she concluded that the aborted attempt was not so much a failure as a dress rehearsal, an unplanned but necessary part of a training regimen that included a bunch of shorter swims.

"We have regretfully reached the point on the calendar where we are not able to open training camps on time and need to cancel the first week of preseason games," Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement.

"We will make further decisions as warranted."

The players' association did not comment.

NBA.com's schedule page, which has a banner across the top listing the number of games on each day, was changed Friday morning to read "0 Games" for each date until Oct. 16, when there are four games. Those could be in jeopardy, too,

without an agreement by the end of this month or very early October. The league scrapped the remainder of its preseason schedule on Oct. 6 in 1998, when the regular season was reduced to 50 games.

That remains the only time the NBA has lost games to a work stoppage.

The cancellations were inevitable after Thursday's meeting between owners and players ended without a collective bargaining agreement. Both sides still hope the entire regular season, scheduled to begin Nov. 1, can be saved.

The league locked out the players on July 1 after the expiration of the old labor agreement. Owners and players still haven't agreed on how to divide revenues — players were guaranteed 57 percent under the previous deal — or the structure of the salary cap. The next talks aren't scheduled, but both sides said Thursday they hope to meet again next week — though the window could be limited because of the Jewish holiday and a union meeting Tuesday in Miami. They probably need a deal by the middle of October to avoid canceling real games.

Asked Thursday if he thought things were far enough along to still believe that was possible, Commissioner David Stern said: "I don't have any response to that. I just don't. I don't know the answer."

According to NBA policy, ticket holders for canceled games will be refunded the cost of the ticket plus 1 percent interest.

The NBA had long prepared for a shortened or canceled preseason, declining to schedule exhibition games overseas for the first time since 2005 — also when a labor pact was set to expire.

Still, the hope had been to find a way to negotiate a deal in time that would allow the ball to be tipped as scheduled in Detroit and Orlando on Oct. 9, the first of five games that night.

Realistic chances of that passed in recent days, given the expectation of about two weeks from a deal in principle to a completed agreement. □

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AP Interview: Samsung to step up Apple patent war

KELLY OLSEN

AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

A top Samsung executive says the company will take a bolder stance in its patent battle with smartphone and tablet rival Apple, which Samsung claims has been "free riding" on its patented wireless technologies.

"We'll be pursuing our rights for this in a more aggressive way from now on," Lee Younghee, head of global marketing for mobile communications, said Friday in an interview.

Lee, a senior vice president at Samsung, did not say what form the South Korean company's stronger stance would take or if there would be more lawsuits.

But her remarks suggest a definite change in tone. She described its previous approach as "passive."

So far, Samsung has mostly spoken about the dispute through press releases and

comments by anonymous company officials in South Korean and foreign media. The public nature of the comments appeared to back up recent South Korean media speculation the company was planning to go on the offensive.

The fight began when Apple sued Samsung in April in the United States, alleging the product design, user interface and packaging of Samsung's Galaxy devices "slavishly copy" the iPhone and iPad.

Samsung has responded with its own lawsuits accusing Apple of violating its intellectual property. The fight has spread to 10 countries, according to Samsung, including the U.S., South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and Australia.

The battle is all the more complex as Apple and Samsung are not only competitors in the fast-growing



South Korean students use Samsung Electronics' new tablet Galaxy Tab 10.1 at its showroom in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Sept. 23, 2011. A top Samsung Electronics Co. executive says her company will take a more aggressive stance against its smartphone and tablet rival Apple Inc. in a global patent dispute

Associated Press

Cellphone service coming to 6 NYC subway stations

By PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The long-delayed project to wire New York City subway stations for mobile phone service is finally bearing fruit. A person close to the matter said six stations will go live with the service on Tuesday. The person speaking Friday on condition of anonymity said that AT&T Inc. and T-Mobile USA subscribers will be able to use their phones at six stations in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan. Sprint and Verizon phones won't work there for now. The person asked not to be identified because the official announcement is on

Tuesday.

Mobile phone service has been available in underground stations and tunnels in San Francisco's Bay Area Rapid Transit system since 2006, and in Boston's subway system since 2007.

The New York stations where the service will be available are on 14th Street from 6th Avenue to 8th Avenue, and on 23rd Street and 8th Avenue.

The signals will cover the platforms and mezzanines of the stations, but extend only a short distance into tunnels. Cellular data services and text messaging will work in addition to calls. □

business relationship.

Samsung Electronics Co., the world's biggest manufacturer of memory chips and liquid crystal displays, supplies some of the key components that go into Apple Inc. products.

Lee said that Samsung has kept that relationship in mind amid the dispute with the Cupertino, California-based company, and has largely been pulling its punches.

"We've been quite respectful and also passive in a way" in consideration of those links, Lee said during the interview in her office at Samsung's headquarters building in southern Seoul. "However, we shouldn't be ... anymore."

Lee said that Samsung

holds numerous patents covering wireless telecommunications technology. Samsung says such patents cover key functions including allowing a mobile phone user to speak on the phone and receive an e-mail at the same time.

"We believe Apple is free riding" on such Samsung patents, Lee said.

Apple reacted to Lee's comments by reiterating its claim Samsung has violated its intellectual property.

"It is no coincidence that Samsung's latest products look a lot like the iPhone and iPad, from the shape of the hardware to the user interface and even the packaging," said Seoul-based spokesman Steve Park. □

After brutal week, US stocks end mixed

**DANIEL WAGNER
MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writers**

A brutal week for the U.S. stock market ended on a quiet note Friday, but worries about the global economy again pounded copper, gold and other commodities.

Fears about Europe's debt increased early Friday on news that Moody's Investors Service had downgraded its ratings of eight Greek banks by two notches. Investors have been waiting in vain for news that Greece will receive the next installment of a bailout package in time to avoid defaulting on its debt next month. If it defaults, banks throughout Europe are likely to lose the money they invested in Greek bonds — and investors fear that could ultimately lead to a recession in Europe and the U.S.

Finance ministers from 20 large countries pledged Friday to take "all necessary actions to preserve the stability of the banking systems and financial markets." But they offered nothing specific.

Europe's problems helped feed the heavy selling in stocks this week. But the chief worry was that the U.S. is headed for another recession and that the Federal Reserve is running out of ways to fight it.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 37.65 points Friday, or 0.4 percent, to close at 10,771.48. The Dow lost 6.4 percent for the week, its biggest drop since the week that ended Oct. 10, 2008, when it fell 18 percent. That was at the height of the financial crisis.

The S&P 500 index rose 6.87 points Friday, or 0.6 percent, to 1,136.43. For the week, the index dropped 6.5 percent, its worst slide since the first week of August.

The Nasdaq rose 27.56, or 1.1 percent, to 2,483.23.

Nearly two stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange Friday. Trading volume was slightly above average at 5.1 billion shares.

John Merrill, chief investment officer at Tanglewood Wealth Management in Houston, said Friday's re-

spite might not last.

"Nothing goes in a straight line, even markets that are declining steeply," he said. Merrill said the market was moderating as traders bought shares that looked like bargains after the week's selling. But the problems that have weighed on markets for months now show no sign of letting up. Bargain-hunters "bring some stability into the market for

The rout started Wednesday afternoon after the Federal Reserve announced its third plan in less than three years to lower long-term interest rates. But the Fed unnerved investors with a dismal view of the economy's health, spotting "significant downside risks to the economic outlook, including strains in financial markets." Investors interpreted the Fed's plans and its statement as indi-



Bank of America specialist Scott Wetzel monitors stock prices at the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Sept. 23, 2011 in New York. Investors fear that a global recession may already be under way.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

a day or two, until they've used up their buying power," Merrill said. "Then the macro issues surface again" and volatility returns.

Commodities from soybeans to metals sank Friday. Gold dropped 5.9 percent, copper lost 6 percent and silver 17.7 percent. Stocks in commodities producers also dropped. Range Resources Corp. fell 11 percent to \$58.53. Newmont Mining Corp. fell 3.6 percent to \$62.86.

Treasury yields rose slightly from record lows reached Thursday as the quieter stock market reduced traders' hunger for lower-risk bets such as U.S. government debt. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 1.80 percent from 1.71 percent late Thursday. Demand for Treasuries drives their prices higher and their yields lower.

Traders had sold gold to raise cash during Thursday's sell-off.

They dumped other commodities because they tend to lose value when the economy weakens, such as oil and raw materials.

cating that a full economic recovery is years away.

The bleak tone helped drive the Dow and S&P down more than 2 percent Wednesday. When trading resumed on Thursday, the selling was furious from the start.

The Dow fell as much as 527 points before regaining some ground and closing down 391, or 3.5 percent.

A report out Thursday that showed a drop in Chinese manufacturing added to the list of concerns.

Demand from China, the world's second-largest economy, has helped give other countries from Indonesia to Canada a lift. But its central bank has been raising interest rates to slow the country's growth and battle inflation.

The plunge in stocks this week followed five straight days of gains. The change in heart came as hopes for a resolution to Europe's debt were crushed — an expected deal on the next installment of a bailout package for Greece didn't come. That raised the specter of a default. □

Treasuries fall after markets stabilize

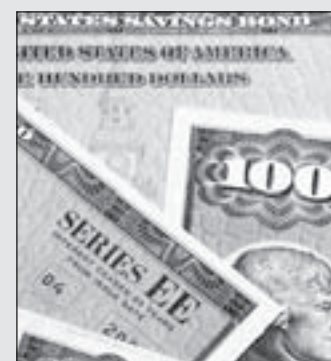
NEW YORK (AP) — Treasury prices fell after the broader stock markets calmed down, reducing traders' appetite for lower-risk government bonds.

For most of the week Treasury prices rose while stocks fell on fears that Europe's debt problems would lead to a global financial crisis. Another worry was that the U.S. is headed for another recession and that policy makers are running out of ways to fight it.

The week's price increases also stemmed from the Federal Reserve board's decision to shift \$400 billion from short-term debt into long-term debt in a bid to drive down borrowing costs and spur the economy.

Lower interest rates might spur investment and spending. Both slowed as the economy weakened this year.

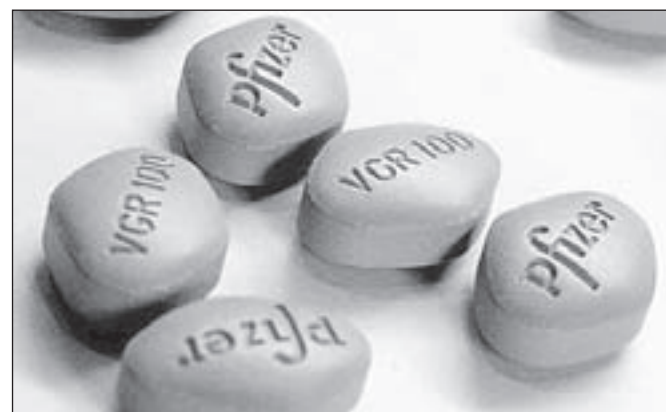
On Friday, finance minis-



Treasury prices fell after the broader stock markets calmed down, reducing traders' appetite for lower-risk government bonds.

ters from 20 large countries pledged to take "all necessary actions to preserve the stability of the banking systems and financial markets."

Friday, the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell \$1.16 for every \$100 invested. Its yield, which moves inversely to prices, rose to 1.84 percent from the previous day's 1.73 percent. That was down from 2.07 percent last Friday. □



Fitch downgrades Pfizer credit rating

NEW YORK (AP) — Credit rating agency Fitch says it is downgrading several credit ratings for pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc. ahead of the loss of patent protection for its best-selling drug, Lipitor.

Fitch downgraded Pfizer's long-term issue default rating to 'A+' from 'AA-' in anticipation of revenue pressures as the company continues to pay off its 2009 acquisition of Wyeth. The credit rating service has paid down \$7.6 billion in debt in the past two years, leaving \$41.7 billion remaining.

Fitch acknowledges the company "has shown some financial discipline by reducing the debt load." But as Lipitor loses patent protection in November "Fitch is most concerned with Pfizer's ability to further moderate costs during the height of its patent cliff." Lipitor was the best-selling drug in the world last year at \$10.7 billion. □

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Treasury gets \$30M from sale of SunTrust warrants



The Treasury Department has sold nearly 18 million warrants it holds in Atlanta-based SunTrust Banks Inc. The sale helped the government recoup taxpayer money from the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout.

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER,
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The

Treasury Department has sold nearly 18 million warrants it holds in Atlanta-based SunTrust Banks Inc. The sale helped the government recoup taxpayer money from the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout.

The department said Friday that it will receive \$30.1 million from the sale. A warrant gives the purchaser the right to buy SunTrust stock at a specified price.

SunTrust said Friday that it purchased 4 million of the warrants.

Treasury didn't identify the other buyers.

Sun Trust received \$4.85 billion from the federal government in the fall of 2008, at the height of the finan-

cial crisis. The bank repaid the money in March. The sale of the warrants gives the Treasury an additional return on its investment. Congress authorized \$700 billion to rescue banks, auto companies and troubled insurer AIG. But the government has distributed only \$413 billion from the bailout fund.

So far, \$315 billion has been repaid. The program remains nearly \$100 billion in the red, mostly because of money that hasn't been repaid by AIG and the auto-makers.

About \$245 billion went to banks, most of which has been paid back. When dividends and interest are included, the banks have returned \$255 billion to the Treasury. □

Moody's downgrades 8 Greek banks

ELENA BECATOROS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Moody's downgraded eight Greek banks Friday, citing their exposure to their government's bonds and the deteriorating economic situation in the country as it struggles to convince creditors it's doing enough to get more bailout cash. Moody's Investors Service downgraded National Bank of Greece, EFG Eurobank Ergasias, Alpha Bank, Piraeus Bank, Agricultural Bank of Greece and Attica Bank by two notches from B3 to CAA2.

Though downgrading Emporiki Bank of Greece and General Bank of Greece, which are majority-owned by France's Credit Agricole and Societe Generale respectively, to B3 from B1, Moody's said their parents continue to provide strong support. As a result, their ratings are three notches higher than the others.

The agency also warned that further downgrades were possible by slapping a negative outlook on their ratings. Shares on the Athens Stock Exchange plunged by more than other indexes in Europe, closing down 3.9 percent at 797.95 points. Bank shares led the rout, with declines of more than 8 percent.

Greece has been kept solvent by a €110 billion (\$149 billion) bailout in 2010 from other eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund. But it needed another massive bailout this summer, and has angered international creditors by



A woman walks in front of screens showing stocks at the Athens Stock Exchange, in Athens, on Friday, Sept. 23, 2011. Moody's downgraded eight Greek banks Friday, citing their exposure to their government's bonds and the deteriorating economic situation in the country as it struggles to convince creditors it's doing enough to get more bailout cash. Shares on the Athens Stock Exchange plunged by more than other indexes in Europe, trading 4.3 percent lower in afternoon trading at 794.5 points. Bank shares led the rout, with declines of more than 8 percent.

(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

lagging behind in commitments to implementing reforms. European officials are speaking openly of the possibility of a Greek default, and the fears have roiled international markets. A default could send shockwaves through the banking system and the global economy, leading to losses for banks holding Greek government bonds and dragging down other eurozone countries with shaky finances.

Dutch central bank president Klaas Knot said he could no longer rule out the possibility that Greece will be unable to pay back its debts.

"I won't say that Greece

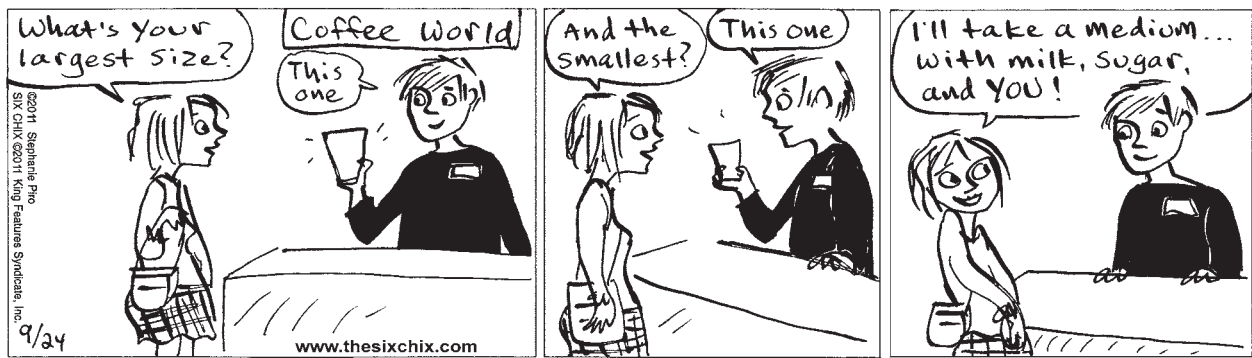
cannot default," Knot said in an interview with Dutch newspaper Het Financieel Dagblad, published Friday. Knot, who recently became president of De Nederlandsche Bank, is also a European Central Bank governing council member. The ECB has insisted Greece must stick with its bailout plan and has opposed default.

"I have long been convinced that a default is not necessary," Knot said. "But the news from Athens is sometimes not encouraging. All efforts are aimed at preventing this, but I am now less positive in ruling out a default than I was a few months ago." □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



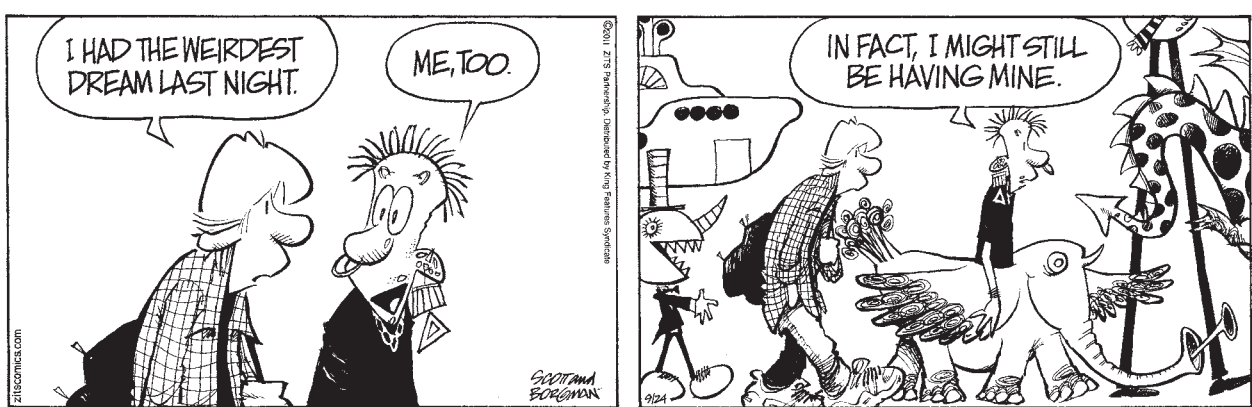
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4					5	
8		6		2	9		7
			7			2	
	6					9	
	5			6		1	
		4				3	
	8				5		
3			1	8		5	2
	1					7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/24

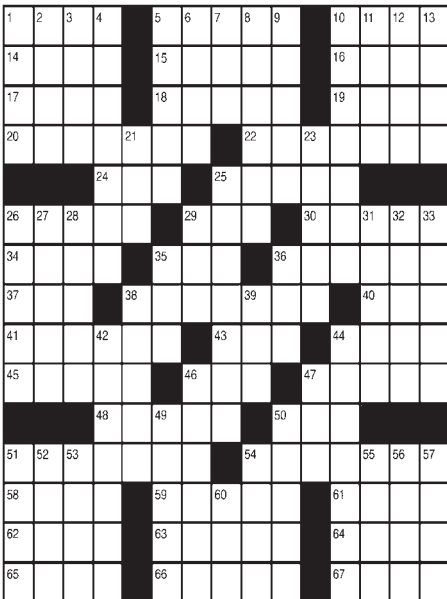
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	7	1	8	2	6	3	4	9
6	4	8	1	3	9	7	5	2
9	3	2	4	7	5	1	6	8
1	9	5	3	8	4	2	7	6
3	2	4	6	9	7	8	1	5
7	8	6	2	5	1	4	9	3
8	6	7	5	4	2	9	3	1
2	1	9	7	6	3	5	8	4
4	5	3	9	1	8	6	2	7

ACROSS

- 1 Parka feature
- 5 Separated
- 10 Capitol roof, often
- 14 Jealousy
- 15 Sled racer
- 16 Hardly __; seldom
- 17 Bearing; demeanor
- 18 Twist of fate
- 19 "...a partridge in a __ tree."
- 20 Bizarre
- 22 Donny & Marie
- 24 Gent
- 25 Chomps
- 26 Haughty one
- 29 __-off; distant
- 30 Helped
- 34 Machine gears
- 35 McCain or Leahy: abbr.
- 36 Clothing
- 37 "___ to Billy Joe"
- 38 Talcs
- 40 Tin container
- 41 River that unites with the Euphrates
- 43 "___ Maria"
- 44 Examination
- 45 Mountain path
- 46 Grow older
- 47 Satan's region
- 48 Stanza
- 50 White lie
- 51 Books of maps
- 54 Fit for drinking
- 58 Jib or mizzen
- 59 Cavalry sword
- 61 Writer Bellow
- 62 Cat's sound
- 63 Coronet
- 64 Study at the last hour
- 65 Remain
- 66 Gray, like fine-grained rock
- 67 Burden



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/24/11

Friday's Puzzle Solved

SILO	CACTI	COMA
AVON	AVOID	EPIC
RACE	MISCONDUCT	
INK	SEAT	EASES
	ELTON	JAR
POROUS	PARSON	
AARON	SPECS	PAN
ATOP	SPEAK	MEMO
RHO	STUNT	HERES
	SMOKER	MALADY
	PIP	BERTH
UPPER	RATE	OWL
PAINTBRUSH	LUAU	
OGLE	RADIO	ISNT
NEER	AMEND	PETE

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9/24/11

DOWN

- 1 __ and haws; hesitates
- 2 "Step __!"; demand from the impatient

- 3 All __; finished
- 4 Energetic ones
- 5 Straighten
- 6 Untainted
- 7 In the past
- 8 Impressionist painter Pierre-Auguste __
- 9 Rendezvous
- 10 Money put into a bank account
- 11 Baker's need
- 12 Anthropologist Margaret __
- 13 Goofs up
- 21 __ King Cole
- 23 Ham and beef
- 25 Wrap up, as a wound
- 26 F. __ Fitzgerald
- 27 Low point
- 28 Fraternity letter
- 29 Not many
- 31 Chopped finely
- 32 Wipe away
- 33 Fender marks
- 35 Distress signal
- 36 "You __ what you eat"
- 38 Heaps
- 39 Adam's wife
- 42 Competition
- 44 Hot sauce
- 46 Attack violently
- 47 Success
- 49 Takes a nap
- 50 Sudden raid
- 51 Deadly vipers
- 52 Tight, as a rope
- 53 Italian currency before 2002
- 54 Flippant
- 55 Horse's home
- 56 Hawaiian feast
- 57 Shade trees
- 60 Cry from one being fleeced

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, September 24, the 267th day of 2011. There are 98 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1568 - Spanish capture English ships at San Juan, Puerto Rico, from Sir John Hawkins' fleet.

1688 - France's King Louis XIV declares war against Holy Roman Empire, called the War of the League of Augsburg.

1789 - U.S. Congress passes the First Judiciary Act, which provides for an Attorney General and a Supreme Court.

1852 - French inventor Henri Giffard makes the first flight in a powered airship, cruising with steam power over Paris.

1948 - First conference in London of representatives from Britain's African colonies; Mildred Gillars, accused of being Nazi wartime radio propagandist "Axis Sally," pleads innocent in Washington to charges of treason. She serves 12 years in prison.

1966 - Mob ransacks and burns Portuguese embassy in Leopoldville in the Congo.

1971 - Britain expels 90 Soviets for espionage activities.

1976 - Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst is sentenced to seven years in prison for her part in a 1974 bank robbery with members of a militant group who had earlier kidnapped her. She is granted clemency by U.S. President Jimmy Carter and released after 22 months.

1982 - The U.S. government lifts the military sanctions that it had imposed on Argentina during the war with Great Britain over the Falkland Islands.

1994 - A report prepared by the CIA reveals confessed spy Aldrich H. Ames exposed 55 clandestine U.S. and allied operations to the Soviet Union and Russia.

1995 - After all-night talks, Israel and the PLO agree to sign a pact at the White House ending nearly three decades of Israeli occupation of West Bank cities.

1996 - The United States and



Today is Nia Vardalos' birthday

the world's major nuclear powers sign a treaty to end all testing and development of nuclear weapons. India objects.

1998 - Iran says it is distancing itself from the reward offered for the killing of author Salman Rushdie, and is ready to exchange ambassadors with Britain.

1999 - Deadly Typhoon Bart, packing winds of 108 kph (67 mph), threatens the tip of Hokkaido island after lashing Japan with rains and winds that kill at least 26 people and injure hundreds as it floods more than 4,000 homes, sets off 245 landslides and downs power lines.

2000 - After the bloodiest summer in recent years, tens of thousands of people, including dozens injured by Basque separatists and relatives of those killed, pack the streets of San Sebastian in northern Spain to demand an end to violence.

2001 - U.S. President George W. Bush issues an order instructing U.S. financial institutions to freeze the assets of 27 groups and individuals suspected of supporting terrorists.

2002 - Two gunmen attack a Hindu temple complex in Gandhinagar, the capital of western Gujarat state, killing at least 30 people and wounding 74 before being killed by commandos.

2004 - Kidnappers seize six

Egyptians in Iraq in separate incidents, while the British Embassy in Baghdad hands out leaflets carrying a message from the family of a Briton kidnapped earlier.

2005 - Crowds opposed to the war in Iraq surge past the White House, shouting "Peace now" in the largest anti-war protest in the nation's capital since the U.S. invasion. Police estimate around 100,000 protesters.

2006 - Swiss voters ratify new asylum and immigration laws that make it more difficult for refugees to receive assistance and effectively block non-European unskilled workers from entering the country.

2007 - Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad questions the official version of the Sept. 11 attacks and defends the right to cast doubt on the Holocaust in a tense appearance at Columbia University in New York. 2008 - Japan's lawmakers elect Taro Aso, leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, as prime minister.

2009 - For the first time, an experimental vaccine prevents infection with the AIDS virus, a watershed event in the deadly epidemic and a surprising result for many scientists who thought previous failures meant such a vaccine might never be possible.

2010 - Nigerian authorities open the gates at two swollen dams in the country's rain-soaked north, sending a flood into a neighboring state that has displaced 2 million people.

Water from the Challawa and Tiga dams has swept through rural Jigawa state, bordering the nation of Niger, said Umar Kyari, a spokesman for the state governor. Kyari said the rising waters have affected about 5,000 villages in the typically arid region approaching the Sahara

Albrecht von Wallenstein, Bohemian soldier (1583-1634); Horace Walpole, British writer (1717-1797); F. Scott Fitzgerald, U.S. writer (1896-1940); Sir William Dobell, Australian artist (1899-1970); Jim Henson, U.S. puppeteer (1936-1990); Jim McKay, U.S. sportscaster (1921-2008); Anthony Newley, British actor-singer (1931-1999); Nia Vardalos, American-Canadian actress-writer (1962--).

Thought For Today:

Fear cannot be without hope nor hope without fear — Baruch Spinoza, Dutch philosopher (1632-1677). □

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Foundation Amor pa Prohimo
Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976
Women in Difficulties Foundation
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Today's Birthdays:

Physicists wary of junking light speed limit yet

Associated Press

Hundreds of scientists packed an auditorium at one of the world's foremost laboratories on the Swiss-French border to hear how a subatomic particle, the neutrino, was found to have outrun light and confounded the theories of Albert Einstein.

"To our great surprise we found an anomaly," said Antonio Ereditato, who participated in the experiment and speaks on be-



Dario Autiero, left, the CNRS (Centre national de la recherche scientifique) researcher and Opera spokesperson Antonio Ereditato, right, of the University of Bern chat before presenting the result of the OPERA experiment during a seminar at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Meyrin near Geneva, Switzerland, Friday, Sept. 23, 2011.

Associated Press

half of the team.
An anomaly is a mild way

of putting it. Going faster than light is something that is just not supposed to happen, according to Einstein's 1905 special theory of relativ-

ity. The speed of light — 186,282 miles per second — has long been considered a cosmic speed limit.

The team—a collaboration between France's National Institute for Nuclear and Particle Physics Research and Italy's Gran Sasso National Laboratory — fired a neutrino beam 454 miles underground from Geneva to Italy.

They found it traveled 60 nanoseconds faster than light. That's sixty billionth of a second, a time no human brain could register.

"You could say it's peanuts, but it's not. It's something that we can measure rather accurately with a small uncertainty," Ereditato told The Associated Press.

If the experiment is independently repeated — most likely by teams in the United States or Japan — then it would require a fundamental rethink of mod-

ern physics.

"Everybody knows that the speed limit is c , the speed of light. And if you find some matter particle such as the neutrino going faster than light, this is something which immediately shocks everybody, including us," said Ereditato, a researcher at the University of Bern, Switzerland.

Physicists not involved in the experiment have been understandably skeptical.

Alvaro De Rujula, a theoretical physicist at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research outside Geneva from where the neutron beam was fired, said he blamed the readings on a so-far undetected human error.

If not, and it's a big if, the door would be opened to some wild possibilities.

The average person, said De Rujula, "could, in principle, travel to the past and kill their mother before they were born."

But Ereditato and his team are wary of letting such science fiction story lines keep them up at night.

"We will continue our studies and we will wait patiently for the confirmation," he told the AP. "Everybody is free to do what they want: to think, to claim, to dream."

He added: "I'm not going to tell you my dreams." □

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Paul McCartney, Beatle and ballet composer, too

JOCELYN NOVECK

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The world's great ballet houses are accustomed to cheers, shouts of "Bravo," even standing ovations. Rock star-groupie screams? Not so much.

But all bets are off when there's a Beatle in the house.

So there were genuine screams of adulation at New York City Ballet's fall gala Thursday, not just at the red-carpet arrivals, but also from some of the designer gown-clad patrons in the theater, who craned their necks to get a good view of the ballet's composer: Sir Paul himself.

Each season, City Ballet puts on a gala fundraiser, and the aim is always to create a little buzz — with a new work, or an interesting honoree. This year's gala,



In this image released by the New York City Ballet, dancers, from left, Amar Ramasar, Sara Mearns, Robert Fairchild and Georgina Pazcoguin in Paul McCartney's "Ocean's Kingdom," Thursday, Sept. 22, 2011 in New York.

Associated Press

featuring McCartney's "Ocean's Kingdom," surely had more buzz than all past galas combined.

Adding to the usual mix of

New York power couples and plain old dance fans (you could tell by the attire who was staying for the gala dinner) were actresses Naomi Watts, Liv Tyler and City Ballet regular Sarah Jessica Parker. And a face not usually seen at the ballet: Steve Van Zandt, guitarist in Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band.

Also on hand: Paul's daughter, designer Stella McCartney, who created the costumes.

The ballet, you ask? Oh yes, we're getting to that. Before it even started, though, the orchestra pit slowly rose to stage level, thanks to the David H. Koch

Theater's nifty hydraulic lift. Conductor Faycal Karoui proceeded to give a brief music lesson explaining parts of McCartney's score, praising its "beauty, style, energy and wit" and throwing in a few bad Beatle puns ("But before we 'Let It Be ...'")

City Ballet head (and this ballet's choreographer) Peter Martins then came on to proffer his marquee guest a toast, not with vodka as his predecessor George Balanchine was wont to do, but, in a nod to McCartney's provenance, with a cup of tea — poured from a kettle by a hand stretching out from the wings.

McCartney, who sang his heart out to packed Yankee Stadium crowds this summer and, at 69, seems to grow ever busier, has already released four classical albums, beginning with "Liverpool Oratorio" in 1991. He had never, though, written a ballet score. With "Ocean's Kingdom" (a recording will be released next month), he not only accomplished that but wrote the story and contributed to virtually every aspect of the production, Martins has said. (Apparently Dad made suggestions on Stella's costumes, too.)

The ballet itself was frothy entertainment, set to pleasing, tuneful, of-

ten lovely music — a production likely to attract a broader audience to the ballet, always a good thing. It told a simple — one might say too simple — tale of an undersea kingdom threatened by earthly invaders. A sea princess, Honorata (Sara Mearns), falls in love with one of the invaders, a prince (Robert Fairchild), but their love is forbidden. Heartbreak and conflict ensue, but in the end they are together.

Martins' choreography was pleasant enough, without being striking or memorable. (One wonders what Christopher Wheeldon or Alexei Ratmansky might have done with it.) Mearns, the emerging star ballerina of the company, was typically affecting as the princess.

Stella McCartney's costumes were a visual smorgasbord, not unlike a runway show. Many of the female getups had modern halterlike tops, a short front skirt and a long back, like the tail of a sea creature. Most successfully dressed were her underwater maidens, in ensembles that resembled creations from a child's spinning paint game: Swirls and doodles, combined with polka dots or stripes. Her earth villains looked like they were covered with giant body tattoos. □



Actress Kim Delaney speaks before former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates receives the Liberty Medal during a ceremony at the National Constitution Center Thursday, Sept. 22, 2011 in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Kim Delaney escorted from Philadelphia podium

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Kim Delaney, star of the television show "Army Wives," had to be escorted from the podium at an event in Philadelphia after struggling to read her speech from a teleprompter.

It happened Thursday at an event honoring former Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

Delaney is a 52-year-old Philadelphia native. Her remarks were punctuated by long pauses and fragmented sentences. After several minutes, a video began to play. She was escorted away from the podium to a chair on the side of the stage by a woman who appeared to be a producer.

Her publicist did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

The event Thursday at National Constitution Center was in honor of Gates. He received the 2011 Liberty Medal, a civic award, for his long public service career. □

R&B singer Vesta Williams found dead in US

EL SEGUNDO, California (AP) — Big-voiced R&B diva Vesta Williams, perhaps best-known for her 1980s hits "Don't Blow A Good Thing" and "Congratulations," has been found dead of a possible drug overdose in a Southern California hotel room, coroner's investigators said Friday. She was 53. Williams was found dead at 6:15 p.m. Thursday in an El Segundo hotel room, Los Angeles County coroner's Capt. John Kades said.

An autopsy will determine the cause of death. A toxicology examination will take six weeks to be completed, Kades said.

Born Mary Vesta Williams on Dec. 1, 1957, to a disc

jockey in Coshocton, Ohio, she had hits with "Once Bitten Twice Shy," "Sweet, Sweet Love" and the torch song "Congratulations," where she emotionally bids goodbye to her ex, about to marry someone else, on his wedding day.

Williams also appeared in movies and on television. She was a saloon singer in the Mario Van Peebles movie "Posse" and she had a recurring role on the television situation comedy "Sister, Sister," playing actress Jackee Harry's best friend Monica.

Harry tweeted her condolences: "...just received truly devastating news: R&B great, and my friend

of many yrs, Vesta Williams ((at)vesta4u), has passed away. (hash)RIPVesta"

Williams diminutive frame belied her powerful, soulful pipes. Her initial success in the music industry came as a background singer for artists ranging from Chaka Khan, Anita Baker and Sting. But she would eventually establish her career with release of her first album, "Vesta," in 1986.

Over the years, she had hits including "Once Bitten Twice Shy," "Sweet, Sweet Love" and her signature torch song "Congratulations." Williams continued to make albums, and was a regular performer on the concert circuit. □

Marsalis says he and Clapton share blues roots

NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Although Wynton Marsalis comes from the worlds of jazz and classical music, and Eric Clapton is a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Marsalis says their recent collaboration wasn't that unusual because they both have something that unifies them — their love of the blues.

"Eric Clapton, he's from England, but he's a part of the blues tradition because that's what he studied, and that's what he wanted to learn how to play, much like I'm a part of the tradition of the German trumpet when I play the Haydn trumpet concerto, or the baroque trumpet, because I studied it and I wanted to play it," the New Orleans native said in a recent interview. "Most of the musicians I've worked with, we come from the same kind of mu-



This Thursday, April 7, 2011 file photo courtesy of Julie Skarratt shows Jazz at Lincoln Center Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis, left, and musician Eric Clapton during Jazz at Lincoln Center's 2011 Annual Gala in New York.

sic, which is the blues, so I don't really have to do anything," added Marsalis, who

has also performed with Willie Nelson and Norah Jones, among others.

"I don't have to go outside of myself, I don't have to play any different kind of way. ... The music all comes from the same source, Afro-American

music, blues, shuffles, basic beats and things that were put in place between the Civil War and the turn of the century."

Clapton and Marsalis' Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra performed together in April for the center's annual

gala benefit. A CD from that night, "Wynton Marsalis & Eric Clapton Play the Blues," was released earlier this month.

Marsalis says he was surprised by how strong Clapton's work ethic was; the guitar god performed for free and did extensive research to come up with the list of songs, which included "Corrine, Corrina" and "Joe Turner's Blues."

"When I looked at the list of the songs that he picked and also listened to the version of the songs that he liked, they covered such a wide span of regional sounds and different grooves. ... It reflected an even deeper understanding that I had of the regional differences of American music and of blues, at different times, so I just went along with the songs that he picked," Marsalis said.

Marsalis said there are no firm plans to work together in the near future, but he knows it will happen.

"It was too much fun playing to not play again," he said. □

Associated Press

Black Eyed Peas to play at MJ tribute

LONDON (AP) — The Black Eyed Peas will perform at next month's Michael Jackson tribute concert in Wales.

They'll join Christina Aguilera, Smokey Robinson and Cee Lo Green at the "Michael Forever" show.

Frontman Will.i.am — who worked with Jackson before the pop star's death in 2009 — said Friday "we all owe Michael such a lot." He said Jackson's songs "have been an inspiration to my whole life and certainly formed the soundtrack to my childhood." The Oct. 8 concert at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium will be hosted by actor Jamie Foxx. The show is not affiliated with Jackson's estate, but his mother Katherine and other relatives are scheduled to attend. Organizers rescinded an offer to the band Kiss over singer Gene Simmons' past criticism of Jackson. □

Travolta visits Gotti widow to research new movie

NEW YORK (AP) — John Travolta visited the widow of mob boss John Gotti to do research for his upcoming movie role as the mafia kingpin. The New York Post reports that Travolta arrived Thursday at the Gotti home in New York City to meet with widow Victoria Gotti, her son John "Junior" Gotti and other key players. The Post said the "Pulp Fiction" star was greeted with handshakes and hugs. He brought a gift bag for Victoria Gotti and stayed inside for more than two hours. All he would say when he emerged was that he was doing research for the movie. John Gotti died in prison in 2002. □



In this April 12, 2011 file photo, actor John Travolta participates in a news conference for the film "Gotti: Three Generations," in New York. Associated Press

Early Marilyn Monroe photos, copyrights to sell at auction

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Copyrights and images from Marilyn Monroe's first photo shoot are hitting the auction block.

A bankruptcy judge in Florida ruled earlier this week that photos taken in 1946 of Norma Jeane Dougherty — who went on to become the iconic Monroe — will be sold at auction to settle the debts of the photographer.

Joseph Jasgur's photos, negatives and image copyrights will be sold in December by Julien's Auctions. The collection also includes several model-release forms Dougherty signed for Jasgur in Hollywood. Darren Julien, chief of Julien's Auctions, said the photos have not been widely distributed and the



In this 1946 image taken by photographer Joseph Jasgur and released by Julien's Auctions, a photo of Norma Jean Dougherty, who eventually changed her name to Marilyn Monroe, is shown.

Associated Press

collection has been locked up in court battles for more than two decades. He said

the sale is significant because "it's very rare to see something where you can buy a copyrighted image of (Monroe), especially of her first photo shoot."

"It's really hard to put a value on something like this, because it's rare and not just for the collector," he said, noting that the owner of the copyrights will be able to sell and distribute the images. "These are probably the most significant images of Marilyn that are available because they're so early, from the first part of her career, and it's rare to have images like these where you're selling the rights, too." He declined to estimate how much the images and copyrights will sell for at the company's "Icons & Idols" auction, to be held Dec. 2-4 in Beverly Hills, California. □

The re-election tango



MAUREEN DOWD

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Whether Bill Clinton is being mischievous or helpful is never entirely clear. But the former president often manages to show the current president just how the game should be played.

When Barack Obama was languishing by the phone in July, yearning to hear from John Boehner on the elusive Grand Bargain, the Big Dog advised blowing off the obstructionists in Congress and invoking the 14th Amendment to raise the debt ceiling. Clinton will often forcefully – and feelingly – frame the argument for Obama policies that would help the working class in a way that Obama himself, once hailed as a master communicator, can't seem to muster. On Sunday talk shows, Bill adroitly defended Barry against Dick Cheney's sly jab that Hillary would make a stronger Democratic nominee in 2012 and against the Cajun ragin' of James Carville. And on Tuesday in New York, as the airwaves thrummed with talk about whether Obama provoked a "women" problem by letting the West Wing become too much of a frat house, Clinton showed how easy it is to get a roomful of women purring. While Obama tried to get some credit for Libya at the U.N. and make nice with Turkey, Bill kicked off his Clinton Global Initiative with a visit to Rachael Ray's cooking show. Looking sharp in a three-piece suit and cozy on the kitchen set, Bill charmed the women in the audience with tales of his new vegan diet, how he misses omelets, his fantasy to play sax with the Rolling Stones and his painful recollection of being a chubby 13-year-old. "The world we live in glorifies people who are skinnier and longer-legged than most of us could ever be," he empathetically told his rapt listeners.

Asked what he would be doing if he were president again for one day, he replied to cheers: "I would pass as many things as I could to put people back to work." When Ray wondered what superpower Clinton would want, he replied (perhaps inspired by his own missteps): "I would be able to enter the minds of people who were about to do really stupid things" and stop them. When a woman in the audience asked if he'd do "Dancing With the Stars," he said they had previously reached out

to him: "I told them I didn't have time to train for it." He added, "I would like to master the tango. ... Last night, Hillary said to me, 'You know, when I'm not secretary of state anymore, we should go take dancing lessons.'"

The audience swooned. Obama, in contrast, is still mooning over the tango he didn't have with Boehner.

The suggestion in Ron Suskind's new book, "Confidence Men," that the president in the first year of his administration focused so much on the guys in his West Wing that it created problems with some top women, is not a new one. Everyone thought the first African-American president would crack open the cloistered boys' club of officials and columnists that always forms with a new White House. But it turned out that Obama felt he was all the change Americans could handle at one time. Especially with Rahm Emanuel, Larry Summers and Robert Gibbs around, the atmosphere often played as the usual "Mad Men" testosterone culture. Even Rahm was not a completely comfy fit, given that he preferred yoga to football and doted on strong women. It's passing strange that a man who was raised by a strong single mother, who talks affectionately about the influence of the banker grandmother who helped raise him, who married a strong woman, who lives with his mother-in-law and who has two daughters he adores, could ever create an Oval man-cave where some women felt uncomfortable. Or maybe after all that petting and pecking by women, he just wanted to macho it up at the office, bonding by talking sports, playing sports and watching SportsCenter. This president in particular, though, has to be careful to make sure he includes the feminine perspective, even if it's from men who have a full complement of it, like Joe Biden and David Axelrod. Obama concedes that he has lost the narrative that brought him to the White House against all odds: his vision for making America great. Suskind's book suggests he went astray in the sway of Wall Street pal Tim Geithner, going too easy on the gluttonous bankers, demanding no important concessions from them and throwing the equitable balance of society out of whack. Now the president is trapped in two damaging story lines. Is he too weak and immature to do the job? Or is he too cool and distant to do the job? The Aloof One has to convince voters that he can connect emotionally. In a way, his relationship with Americans now is analogous to a marriage that's not working. He's the detached husband; we're the neglected wife. Is he paying attention? Does he understand our needs? Or is he just pretending to listen while he watches SportsCenter? □



Cartoonists International: www.nyfn.com/cartoonists

Roll up our sleeves or limp?



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

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It becomes clearer every week that our country faces a big choice: We can either have a hard decade or a bad century. We can either roll up our sleeves and do what's needed to overcome our post-cold war excesses and adapt to the demands of the 21st century or we can just keep limping into the future.

Given those stark choices, one would hope that our politicians would rise to the challenge by putting forth fair and credible recovery proposals that match the scale of our debt problem and contain the three elements that any serious plan must have: spending cuts, increases in revenue and investments in the sources of our strength. But that, alas, is not what we're getting, which is why there remains an opening for an independent Third Party candidate in the 2012 campaign. The Republicans have come nowhere near rising to our three-part challenge because the GOP is no longer a "conservative" party, offering a conservative formula for U.S. renewal. The GOP has been captured by a radical antitax wing, and the party's leaders are too afraid to challenge it. What would real conservatives be offering now? They would understand, as President Eisenhower did, that at this crucial hinge in our history we cannot just be about cutting. We also need to be investing in the sources of our greatness: infrastructure, education, immigration and government-funded research.

Real conservatives would understand that you cannot just shred the New Deal social safety nets, which are precisely what enable the public to tolerate freewheeling capitalism, with its brutal ups and downs. Real conservatives would understand that we cannot maintain our vital defense budget without an appropriate tax base. Real conservatives would understand that we can simplify the tax code, get rid of all the special-interest giveaways and raise revenues at the same time. Real conservatives would never cut taxes and add a new Medicare entitlement in the middle of two wars. And real conservatives would understand that the Tea Party has become the Tea Kettle Party. It is people in real distress about our predicament letting off steam by trying to indiscriminately cut everywhere. But steam without an engine – without a strategic plan for U.S. greatness based on spending cuts, tax reform and investments in tomorrow – will take us nowhere. Countries that don't invest in the future tend to not do well there. Real conservatives know that.

I've argued that the only way for Obama to expose just how radical the GOP has become would be for the president to put out in detail his version of a credible "Grand Bargain" and then go sell it to the country. But that proposal had to include real long-term spending cuts in Medicare and Social Security so they can be preserved, tax reform that raises revenues by asking more of the rich – but also demands something from everyone – and an agenda for investing in our growth engines, like schools and infrastructure, right now to stimulate the economy today in ways that also increase our productivity for tomorrow. That plan should have been a combination of the Simpson-Bowles deficit reduction proposal and Obama's new jobs agenda announced last week.

Such a credible, fair "Obama Plan" for deficit reduction mar-

ried to a credible jobs initiative would have captured America's radical center and made life very difficult for the GOP, which can't accept any tax increases and has no investment agenda other than tax cuts. It was the only chance for maneuvering the GOP into a Grand Bargain. Obama gave us the credible \$447 billion jobs program, but his deficit reduction plan announced Monday to pay for it and trim long-term spending does not rise to the scale we need. It may motivate his base, but it will not attract independents and centrists and, therefore, it will not corner the Republicans.

As The Washington Post reported: "The latest Obama plan 'doesn't produce any more in realistic savings than the plan they offered in April,' said Maya MacGuineas, the president of the bipartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. The most disheartening development, MacGuineas and others said, is Obama's decision to count \$1.1 trillion in savings from the drawdown of troops in Iraq and Afghanistan toward his debt-reduction total. Because Obama has no intention of continuing war spending at last year's elevated levels, that \$1.1 trillion would never have been spent."

A Financial Times editorial summarized my feelings: "American voters are not looking for champions of their preferred redistributive stance, but responsible attitudes to the country's challenges. If Mr. Obama suggests a millionaire's tax can save ordinary voters from pain, he will fail, economically and politically."

"My fading hope is that this is Obama's opening bid and enough Republicans will come to their senses and engage him again in a Grand Bargain. My fear is that both parties have just started their 2012 campaigns. In which case, the rest of us will just sit here, hostages to fortune, orphans of a political system gone mad, hun-
 kered down for a bad century. □



A model wears a creation part of the Etro Spring-Summer 2012 fashion collection, during the fashion week in Milan, Italy, Friday, Sept. 23, 2011.

(AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)



A model wears a creation part of the Versace women's Spring-Summer 2012 fashion collection that was presented in Milan, Italy, Friday, Sept. 23, 2011.

(AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)

Designers go gold for summer

DANIELA PETROFF

AP Fashion Writer

MILAN (AP) — Designers are getting out the gold for next summer.

Metallic sheens have shown up in spring/summer preview showings on everything from jewelry to shoes to sequined outfits.

Heels are less aggressive than in summers past, with the sandal the preferred footwear.

Many of the clothes are without season although colors tend to be pastels, and soft summery shades of yellow, blue, coral, pink

year's warmer weather — and out come treader hats, embroidered capes, mariachi jackets, crinoline skirts and gilded Flamenco platforms.

The spring-summer 2012 womenswear collection shown Friday was the latest round of mingling fantasy and fact — a creative trademark of the brand.

Thus the Torero cape becomes urban, shortened and worn with a pair of shorts or a miniskirt, or the slender pants reminiscent of the arena become contemporary when paired

ors against cooler backgrounds for next spring and summer women's wardrobes, punctuated by bold geometric patterns and dramatic styles.

The designer notes say the collection aims to suggest the new Jazz Age, and there was plenty on display during Friday's preview show to recall the Roaring '20s.

Dresses were either drop-waisted or without any waist at all. Skirts were pleated or swishing. And flowing dresses of the simplest cut were layered



A model wears a creation part of the Moschino women's Spring-Summer 2012 collection that was presented in Milan, Italy, Friday, Sept. 23, 2011.

(AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

and a gamut of beige. More than one designer has harkened back to the 1920s with low waistlines and pleats the favorite expression.

Designers are leaning toward the ladylike, emphasizing dresses and skirts over trousers. Shorts will be a staple of the next summer season, like this year, and not only at the beach.

One brand-new look is a bodysuit, seemingly inspired by the one-piece Beauty Queen swimsuits of a more modest era, that can be worn on its own with heels pageant-style.

with a mariachi jacket turned into a biker jacket. Gold, a recurring trend this week in Milan, pops up everywhere in the Moschino collection, from the flashy jewelry to the sequined flamenco dress to the heart-shaped prints and gilded footwear.

The brand founded in the 1980s by the late Franco Moschino likes to play with words as well as clothes. Each season it offers new food for fashion thought. "Make Up Not War" is next summer's slogan printed or stitched on several outfits in the collection.

underneath with pleated or frilly slips for a very feminine look. Flapper-inspired dresses offered a simple interoperation of the era in plain black-and-white, set off by slicked back hair.

But designer Veronica Etro also emboldened the look, deconstructing its signature prints to emphasize curves. And large cutouts on the sides and shoulders along with plunging necklines and dangerously low backs added drama to the collection. Hemlines brushed the knee, but also fell to mid-calf and floor-length — as in a dramatic, flowing black-lavender-and-gold gown with folds and pleats that caress the shape. □

MOSCHINO

The Moschino trunk show stops in Spain for next

ETRO

Etro combined soft silhouettes and bright pop col-